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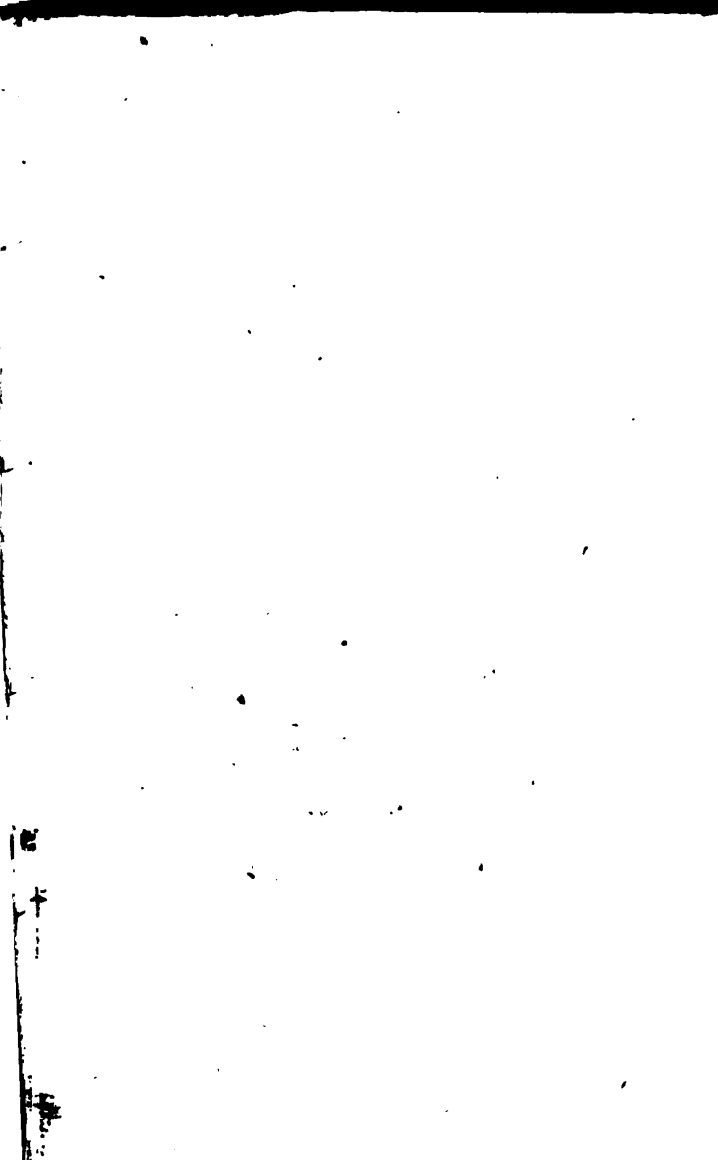


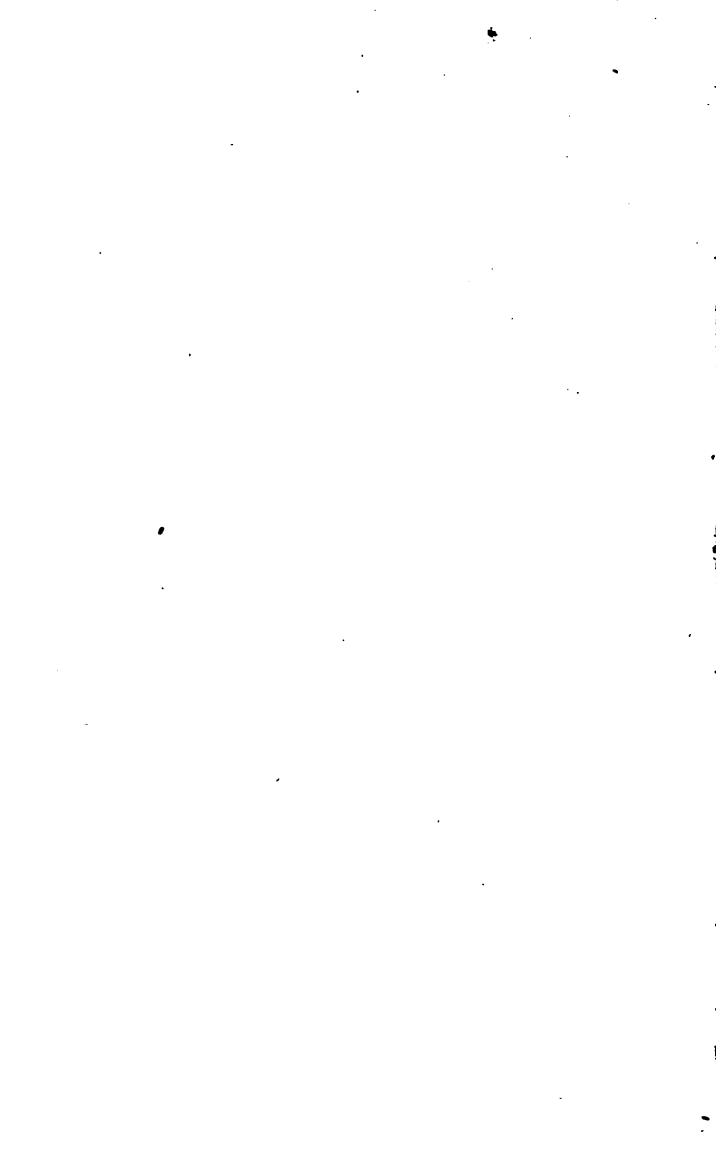
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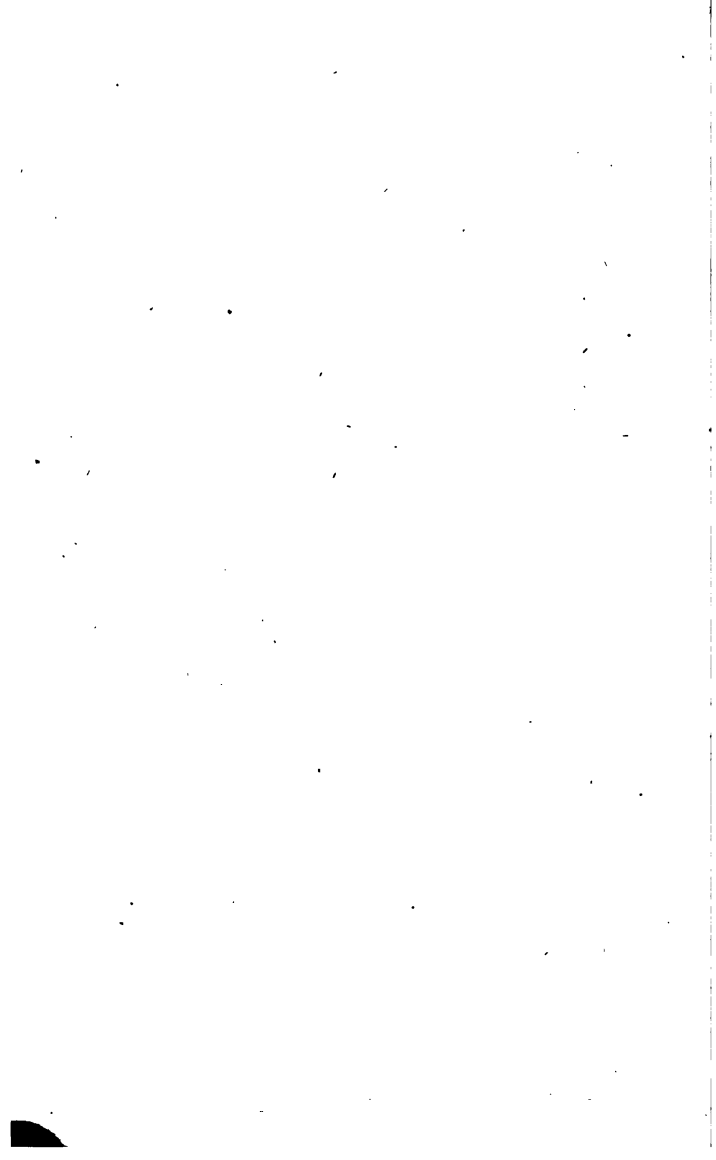
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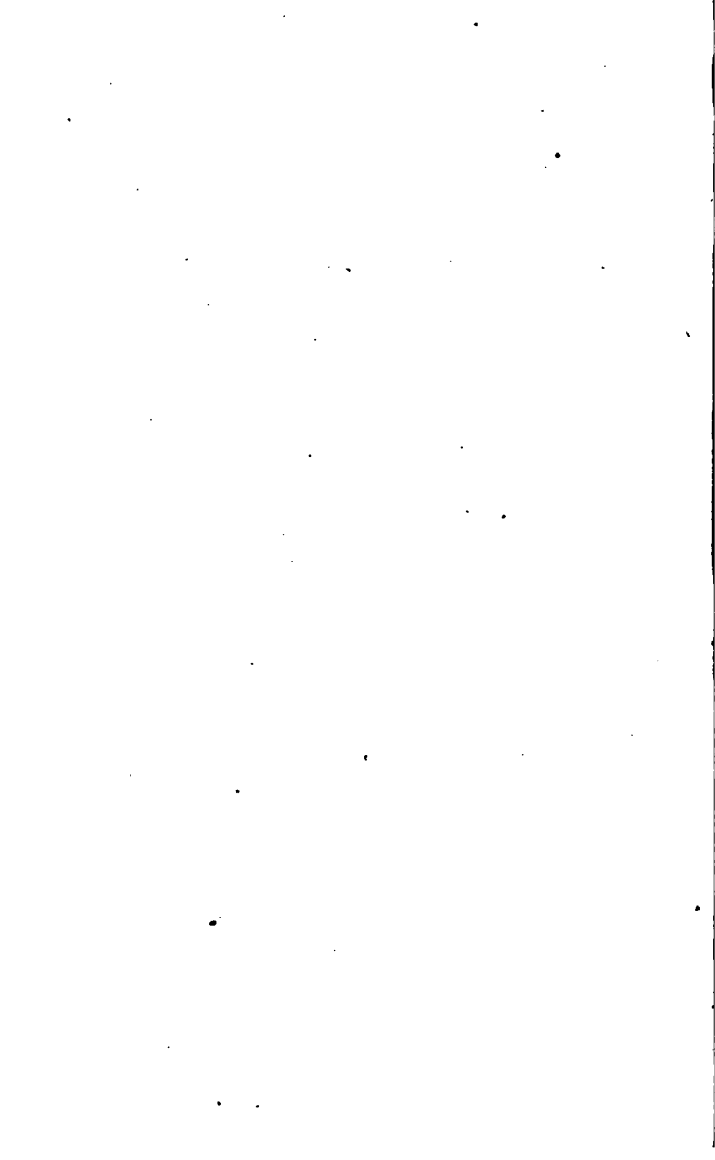


**A COMPLETE COLLECTION**  
**OF**  
**GENUINE PAPERS, LETTERS, &c.**



**PRIX SOIXANTE SOUS.**





A COMPLETE COLLECTION  
OF THE  
GENUINE PAPERS, LETTERS, &c.  
IN THE CASE OF  
JOHN WILKES, ESQ:

Late MEMBER for AYLESBURY, in the County of BUCKS.



A PARIS.

CHEZ J. W. IMPRIMEUR, RUE DU COLOMBIER  
FAUXBURGH, ST. GERMAIN,  
A L'HOTEL DE SAXE.

MDCCCLXVII.

AVEC APROBATION ET PRIVILEGE.



THE Reception Mr. Wilkes's Letters have met with, on their separate Appearance, has induced one of his sincerest Friends to present the Public with an entire Collection of them, as a lasting Monument of the resolute Stand made for Liberty, against Ministerial Oppression and Tyranny, and of the unparalleled Usage of the Author ; in a Country too, famed for Freedom from the earliest Records of Time!—This is a Present which he makes no doubt will be well received by his Friends in particular, and be no less agreeable to all Lovers of the British Constitution in general ; and no such, he really believes, can ever be Enemies to Mr. Wilkes.

The Editor's residing a few Miles from Paris, will, 'tis hoped, be an Excuse with the Candid for the Errors of the Press.

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G E N U I N E



## GENUINE LETTERS, &c.



**I**R. Secker presents his compliments to Mr. Wilkes, he has  
**M** been three times at his house to  
wait on him from Lord Talbot. Mr.  
Secker would be obliged to Mr. Wilkes to  
let him know by a note directed to him  
at Mr. Holford's St. James's Palace, where  
and what time Mr. Secker could speak to  
him this afternoon. If he does not hear  
from Mr. Wilkes, will wait on him by  
nine o'clock to-morrow morning at his  
house.

Sept. 10. half an hour past two o'clock.  
*Directed to John Wilkes, Esq;*

B



‘ Mr. Wilkes’s compliments to Mr.  
‘ Secker, was not acquainted till this mi-  
‘ nute by his note, that Mr. Secker had  
‘ once called in Great George-street, shall  
‘ be at home from seven till eight this  
‘ evening, and as Mr. Wilkes shall be  
‘ alone, he supposes at this meeting Mr.  
‘ Secker will bring no company.’

Friday afternoon,

Great George-street,                      Five, Sept. 10.

*Directed to*

Mr. Secker, at Mr. Holford’s St.  
James’s Palace.

---

‘ Mr. Secker’s compliments to Mr.  
‘ Wilkes, he will wait on him alone this  
‘ evening between seven and eight.’

St. James’s.

*Directed to*

John Wilkes, Esq;

---

S I R,

‘ As I have received no answer to a let-  
‘ ter I wrote to you on the 25th of Au-

‘ guft, and find by fending to your houfe  
 ‘ in town that I can have no immediate  
 ‘ opportunity of feeing you, I am forced  
 ‘ again by a letter to ask if you avow or  
 ‘ difclaim being author of the paper en-  
 ‘ titled the North Briton of the 21ft of  
 ‘ Auguft.’ TALBOT.

Bolton-ftreet.  
 Sept. 10. 1762.

*Directed to*  
 COL. WILKES.

---

Great George-ftreet, Friday Sept. 10

‘ My Lord,

‘ I beg your Lordship to do me the  
 ‘ juftice to believe that I have never yet  
 ‘ received the letter to me at Wincheftcr,  
 ‘ which Mr. Secker tells me was fent there  
 ‘ a fortnight ago. I have juft now the  
 ‘ honour of your Lordship’s by that gen-  
 ‘ tleman. Your Lordship asks if I avow  
 ‘ or difclaim being author of the paper en-  
 ‘ titled the North Briton of the 21ft of  
 ‘ Auguft. My answer is, that I muft firft  
 ‘ infift on knowing your Lordship’s right

‘ to catechise me about an anonymous paper. If your Lordship is not satisfied with this, I shall ever be ready to give your Lordship any other satisfaction becoming me as a gentleman.’

I am, my Lord,

Your Lordship’s most obedient,

humble servant,

*Directed to*

JOHN WILKES.

Earl Talbot.

---

Winchester, Sept. 14, 1762.

My Lord,

‘ I left Winchester, with Lord Effingham’s leave, on the second of August, and did not return to this city till the 12th of this month. My drum-major brought me your Lordship’s letter yesterday. I now return it with the seal unbroke, as the clearest demonstration that I never have read the contents of it. I suppose they are the same with

\* the letter I had the honour of receiving  
\* and answering by Mr. Secker.'

I am, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,  
humble servant,

*Directed to*

JOHN WILKES.

Earl Talbot.

---

S I R,

\* I suppose you have by this time found  
\* the letter I wrote directed to you at Win-  
\* chester, and that hath acquainted you  
\* why I addressed myself to Mr. Wilkes,  
\* to enquire if the North Briton of the 21st  
\* of August was written by him. I well  
\* know every gentleman who contributes  
\* to support periodical papers by his pen,  
\* is not answerable for all the papers that  
\* appear under the title of that which he  
\* assists, but I cannot conceive that any  
\* man should refuse to assure a person who  
\* hath been the object of the wit of any  
\* paper, that he was not the author of a  
\* paper he did not write. Every man's

' sense of honour ought to direct his con-  
 ' duct, if you prefer a personal engage-  
 ' ment to the denying being the author of  
 ' a paper that hath been so free with my  
 ' name; I who am publicly affronted by  
 ' that paper, cannot in honour avoid re-  
 ' quiring the satisfaction you seem most  
 ' desirous to give. Be pleased to write or  
 ' send to me as soon as you have deter-  
 ' mined what part you will act. I shall  
 ' be in London Thursday and Friday next,  
 ' and this day se'nnight, after which I shall  
 ' not be in London till Thursday the 23d.'

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

TALBOT.

Bolton-street

*Directed to*

Sept. 12. 1762,

Col. Wilkes.

Winchester.

Winchester, Sept. 16, 1762.

My Lord,

' I had not till yesterday the honour of  
 ' your Lordship's letter of the 12th, and

( 7 )

‘ embrace this earliest opportunity of acknowledging it. Your Lordship has not yet, in my poor idea, ascertained the right you claim of interrogating me about the paper of the 21st of August, and I will first know the very good authority on which I am thus questioned, before I will return any answer whatever.

‘ Your Lordship desires me to write or send to you as soon as I have determined what part I shall act. I intended my first letter should have made that sufficiently clear,’

I am, my Lord,

Your Lordship's very humble servant,

*Directed to*

JOHN WILKES.

Earl Talbot.

---

S I R,

‘ I have this instant received your's of the 16th. It is your own declaration before men of truth and honour that you occasionally assisted the paper called The North Briton with your pen, that is the

‘ foundation of my interrogating you about  
 ‘ the North Briton of the 21st of August—  
 ‘ and whatever may be your idea, mine is  
 ‘ that when a gentleman owns himself an  
 ‘ occasional author of an anonymous satirical  
 ‘ paper, any person by name ridiculed  
 ‘ in such an hebdomadal performance  
 ‘ hath a right to ask the occasional  
 ‘ avowed writer, if he was the author of  
 ‘ the offending paper.

‘ You may now, Sir, answer my question  
 ‘ or not, I have offered to put myself  
 ‘ upon that footing with you that became  
 ‘ a man who hath spirit, and is influenced  
 ‘ by honour—if you do not deny the paper  
 ‘ I must and will conclude you wrote  
 ‘ it.’

Your humble servant,

TALBOT.

Bolton-street,  
 Sept. 17, 1762.

*Directed to*  
 Col. Wilkes.

Winchester, Sept. 21, 1762.

My Lord,

‘ Sunday’s post brought me your Lordship’s of the 17th, and by the return of it this waits on your Lordship.

‘ You are pleased to say that it is my own declaration before men of truth and honour that I occasionally assisted the paper called the North Briton. I wish your Lordship had been more explicit, and had mentioned the name of any one gentleman before whom I made that declaration. Was it made in public? or was it in private conversation? Still I have the misfortune of not yet seeing your Lordship’s right of putting the question to me about the paper of the 21st of August, and ’till I do, I will never resolve your Lordship on that head, though I would any friend I have in the world, who had the curiosity of asking me, if it was in a civil manner.

‘ Your Lordship says that if I do not deny the paper, you must and will con-



‘ clude I wrote it. Your Lordship has  
‘ my free consent to make any conclusions  
‘ you think proper, whether they are well  
‘ or ill grounded ; and I feel the most  
‘ perfect indifference about what they are,  
‘ or the consequences of them.

‘ I intend at present to make a tour on  
‘ Thursday to the Isle of Wight. I shall  
‘ return to this city the beginning of the  
‘ next week.’

I am, my Lord,

Your Lordship’s

most humble servant,

*Directed to*

JOHN WILKES.

Earl Talbot.

---

Winchester, Sept. 30, 1762.

S I R,

‘ Lord Talbot by your message has at  
‘ last brought this most important ques-  
‘ tion to the precise point, where my first  
‘ answer to his Lordship fixed it, if he pre-  
‘ ferred that. As you have only seen the  
‘ two last letters, I must entreat you to

‘ cast your eye over those preceding, be-  
‘ cause I apprehend they will justify an ob-  
‘ servation or two I made this morning,  
‘ when I had the honour of paying my  
‘ compliments to you at camp.

‘ Be assured that if I am between heaven  
‘ and earth, I will be on Tuesday evening  
‘ at Tilbury’s the Red Lion at Bagshot,  
‘ and on Wednesday morning will play  
‘ this duet with his Lordship.

‘ It is a real satisfaction to me that his  
‘ Lordship is to be accompanied by a gen-  
‘ tleman of Colonel Berkeley’s worth and  
‘ honour.

‘ This will be delivered to you by my  
‘ adjutant, who attends me to Bagshot.  
‘ I shall not bring any servant with me,  
‘ from the fear of any of the parties being  
‘ known. My pistols only, or his Lord-  
‘ ship’s, at his option, shall decide this  
‘ point.

‘ I beg the favour of you to return me  
‘ the letters, as I mean to leave Winches-

‘ ter this evening. I have Lord Bruce’s  
‘ leave of absence for ten days.’

I am, with sincere regard, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

JOHN WILKES.

I hope that we may make a *partie*  
*quarrée* for supper on Tuesday at Bagshot.

*Directed to*

Colonel Berkeley.

---

S I R,

‘ I have read all the letters and shall  
‘ depend upon the pleasure of supping  
‘ with you at Tilbury’s the Red Lion at  
‘ Bagshot Tuesday evening. My servant  
‘ will attend me, as the going alone would  
‘ give room for suspicion, but you may  
‘ depend upon his following your direc-  
‘ tion at Bagshot, and that he shall not be  
‘ seen where you would not have him—I

• am much obliged by your favourable  
• opinion, and am,

• Your very humble servant,

N. BERKELEY.

Camp near Winchester,

Sept. 30, 1762.

• Inclosed is the copy of a letter received  
• by Mr. Stankey this afternoon. [It re-  
• lated to the taking the Havannah.]

*Directed to*

Colonel Wilkes.

---

[To these letters we shall subjoin the  
following paper, as it also relates to the  
North Briton.]

THE EARL TEMPLE, OCT. 5, 1762.

Red Lion at Bagshot, Tuesday,  
ten at night,

MY LORD,

• I had the honour of transmitting to  
your Lordship copies of seven letters,  
which passed between Lord Talbot and  
me. As the affair is now over, I enclose  
an original letter of Col. Berkeley's, with

a copy of mine previous to it, which fixed the particulars of our meeting, and therefore remained a secret, very sacredly kept by the four persons concerned.

“ I came here at three this afternoon, and about five I was told, that Lord Talbot and Colonel Berkeley were in the house. Lord Talbot had been here at one, and was gone again, leaving a message, however, that he would soon return. I had continued in the room where I was at my first coming, for fear of raising any suspicion. I sent a compliment to Colonel Berkeley, and that I wished to see him. He was so obliging to come to me directly. I told him that I supposed we were to sup together with Lord Talbot, whom I was ready to attend, as became a private gentleman, and that he and Mr. Harris, [Mr. Wilkes's Adjutant] as our seconds, would settle the business of the next morning, according to my letter to him from Winchester, and his answer. Berkeley said, that his Lordship desired to finish the business immediately. I replied, that the appointment was to sup toge-

ther that evening, and to fight in the morning, that in consequence of such an arrangement, I had, like an idle man of pleasure, put off some business of real importance, which I meant to settle before I went to bed. I added, that I was come from Mednenham Abbey, where the jovial *Monks of St. Francis* had kept me up till four in the morning, that the world would therefore conclude that I was drunk, and form no favourable opinion of his Lordship from a duel at such a time, that it more became us both to take a cool hour of the next morning, as early a one as was agreeable to his Lordship. Berkeley said, that he had undertaken to bring us together, and, as we were both now at Bagshot, he would leave us to settle our own business. He then asked me, if I would go with him to his Lordship. I said I would any moment he pleased. We went directly with my Adjutant.

I found his Lordship in an agony of passion. He said, that I had injured, that I had insulted him, that he was not used to

be injured, or insulted : What did I mean ? Did I, or did I not, write the \* *North Briton of August the 21<sup>st</sup>*, which affronted his honour ? He would know ; he insisted on a direct answer : here were his pistols. I replied, that he would soon use them, that I desired to know by what right his Lordship catechised me about a paper, which did not bear my name ; that I should never resolve him that question, till he made out the right of putting it ; and that if I could have entertained any other idea, I was too well bred to have given his Lordship and Colonel Berkeley the trouble of coming to Bagshot. I observed, that I was a private English gentleman, perfectly free and independent, which I held to be a character of the highest dignity ; that I obeyed with pleasure a gracious Sovereign, but would never submit to the arbitrary dictates of a fellow subject, a Lord Steward of his Household ; my superior in

\* See the North Briton, No. 12, at the end of this volume.

deed in rank, fortune, and abilities, but my equal only in honour, courage, and liberty. His Lordship then asked me, if I would fight him that evening. I said, that I preferred the next morning, as it had been settled before, and gave my reasons. His Lordship replied, that he insisted on finishing the affair immediately. I told him that I should very soon be ready, that I did not mean to quit him, but would absolutely first settle some important business relative to the education of an only daughter, whom I tenderly loved, that it would take up but a very little time, and I would immediately after decide the affair in any way he chose, for I had brought both sword and pistols. I rung the bell for pen, ink, and paper, desiring his Lordship to conceal his pistols, that they might not be seen by the waiter. He soon after became half frantic, and made use of a thousand indecent expressions, that I should be *banged, damned, &c.* I said, that I was not to be frightened, nor in the least affected, by such violence; that God had given



me a firmness and spirit, equal to his Lordship's, or any man's; that cool courage should always mark me, and that it would be seen how well bottomed I was.

“ After the waiter had brought pen, ink, and paper, I proposed that the door of the room might be locked, and not opened, till our business was decided. His Lordship on this proposition became quite outrageous, declared that this was meer *butchery*, and that I was a wretch, who sought his life. I reminded him, that I came there on a point of honour, to give his Lordship satisfaction; that I mentioned the circumstance of locking the door only to prevent all possibility of interruption, and that I would in every circumstance be governed, not by the turbulence of the most violent temper I had ever seen, but by the calm determinations of our two seconds, to whom I implicitly submitted. His Lordship then asked me, if I would deny the paper. I answered, that I neither would own, nor deny it; if I survived I would afterwards declare, not

before. Soon after he grew a little cooler, and in a soothing turn of voice said, I have never, I believe, offended Mr. Wilkes; why has he attacked me? he must be sorry to see me unhappy. I asked, upon what grounds his Lordship imputed the paper to me? that Mr. Wilkes would justify any paper to which he had put his name, and would equally assert the privilege of not giving any answer whatever about a paper which he had not; that this was my undoubted right, which I was ready to seal with my blood. He then said he admired me exceedingly, really loved me, but I was an unaccountable animal—such parts! but would I kill him who had never offended me? &c. &c. &c.

“ We had after this a good deal of conversation about the *Bucks Militia*, and the day his Lordship came to see us on *Wycombe Heath*, before I was *Colonel*. He soon after flamed out again, and said to me, you are a murderer, you want to kill me, but I am sure I shall kill you, I know I shall, *by God*. If you will fight, if you

kill me, I hope you will be *hanged*. I know you will. I asked, if I was first to be *killed*, and afterwards *hanged*; that I knew his Lordship fought me with the King's pardon in his pocket, and I fought him with a halber about my neck; that I would fight him for all that, and if he fell I should not tarry here a moment for the tender mercies of such a Ministry, but would directly proceed to the next stage, where my valet de chambre waited for me, and from thence I would make the best of my way to France, as men of honour were sure of protection in that kingdom. He seemed much affected by this. He then told me, that I was an unbeliever, and wished to be killed. I could not help smiling at this, and observed that we did not meet at Bagshot to settle articles of faith, but points of honour; that indeed I had no fear of dying, but I enjoyed life as much as any man in it; that I was as little subject to be gloomy, or even peevish, as any Englishman whatever; that I valued life, and the fair enjoyments of it so

much, I would never quit it by my own consent, except on a call of honour.

I then wrote a letter to your Lordship, respecting the education of Miss Wilkes, and gave you my poor thanks for the steady friendship, with which you have so many years honoured me. Colonel Berkeley took the care of the letter, and I have since desired him to send it to Stowe, for the sentiments of the heart at such a moment are beyond all politics, and indeed every thing else, but such virtue as Lord Temple's.

“ When I had sealed my letter, I told his Lordship I was entirely at his service, and I again desired that we might decide the affair in the room, because there could not be a possibility of interruption; but he was quite inexorable. He then asked me how many times we should fire? I said, that I left it to his choice: I had brought a flask of powder, and a bag of bullets. Our seconds then charged the pistols, which my Adjutant had brought. They were large horse pistols. It was that

we should fire at the word of command, to be given by one of our seconds. They tossed up, and it fell to my Adjutant to give the word. We then left the inn, and walked to a garden at some distance from the house. It was near seven, and the moon shone very bright. We stood about eight yards distant, and agreed not to turn round before we fired, but to continue facing each other. Harris gave the word. Both our fires were in very exact time, but neither took effect. I walked up immediately to his Lordship, and told him that now I avowed the paper. His Lordship paid me the highest encomiums on my courage, and said he would declare every where that I was the noblest fellow God had ever made. He then desired, that we might now be good friends, and retire to the inn to drink a bottle of claret together, which we did with great good humour and much laugh. His Lordship afterwards went to Windsor, Colonel Berkley and my Adjutant to Winchester, and I continue here till to-morrow morning, waiting the

return of my valet de chambre, to whom I have sent a messenger. Berkley told me, that he was grieved for his Lordship and passion, and admired my courage and coolness beyond his farthest idea; that was his expression.

“ I have a million of other particulars to relate, but I blush already at the length of this letter. Your Lordship will soon see Colonel Berkley, and I hope in a few days to pay my devoirs at Stowe. I intend to be Aylesbury quarter sessions by Thursday dinner.

“ My most respectful compliments always attend Lady Temple.”

I am ever, my dear Lord,

Your Lordship's very devoted,

And obedient humble servant,

JOHN WILKES.

[*The following are the papers relating to the case of Mr. Wilkes and the 45th number of the North Briton.*]

M A G N A C H A R T A,

Cap. 29.

**N**ULLUS Liber Homo *capiatur*, vel *imprisonetur*, aut *disseisatur*, de libero tenemento suo, vel LIBERTATIBUS, vel LIBERIS CONSUETUDINIBUS SUIS, aut utlageter, aut exulet, aut *aliquo modo destruat*ur. Nec super eum *ibimus*, nec *super eum mittemus* nisi per legale iudicium parium suorum, vel per *legem Terræ*.\*

As the apprehension, and commitment of John Wilkes, Esq; member of parliament, to the Tower, must have raised the curiosity of many people, to know the cir-

\* No freeman *may be apprehended*, or *imprisoned*, or *disseised* of his freehold, or LIBERTIES, or FREE CUSTOMS, or be outlawed or banished, or *any wise destroyed*. Nor *will we pass upon him*, nor condemn him, but by the lawful judgment of his peers, or by the *law of the land*.

cumstances attending it, the following detail of simple facts (upon which every reader will make his own comments) cannot be unseasonable, and are perhaps absolutely necessary to be laid before the public.

On Saturday the 30th of April, 1763, early in the forenoon, three of his majesty's messengers, by virtue of a warrant from the secretary of state, seized on the person of the said John Wilkes, Esq; member of parliament; of which warrant the following is a true copy.

L. S. George Montague Dunk earl of Halifax viscount Sunbury and baron Halifax one of the lords of his majesty's most honourable privy council lieutenant general of his majesty's forces and principal secretary of state.

These are in his majesty's name to authorize and require you (taking a constable to your assistance) to make strict and diligent search for the authors printers and publishers of a seditious and treasonable paper intituled



the North Briton Number XLV Saturday April 23 1763 printed for G. Kearsly in Ludgate Street London and them or any of them having found to apprehend and seize together with their papers and to bring in safe custody before me to be examined concerning the premises and further dealt with according to law And in the due execution thereof all mayors sheriffs justices of the peace constables and all other his majesty's officers civil and military and loving subjects whom it may concern are to be aiding and assisting to you as there shall be occasion and for so doing this shall be your warrant Given at St. James's the twenty-sixth day of April in the third year of his majesty's reign

*signed*

*directed to*

Dunk Halifax

Nathan Carrington John Money

James Watson and Robert Blackmore

Four of his majesty's messengers in ordinary

N. B. The officers had a *verbal* order, to put this warrant in execution by entering forcibly into the house of John Wilkes, Esq; member of parliament, at midnight; and those officers are now threatened with the loss of their places for not complying with such *verbal* instructions.

On the intimation of Mr. Wilkes, member of parliament, being in custody, a motion was made in the court of common pleas then sitting in Westminster Hall, for a Habeas-Corpus, which was granted; though by reason of the Prothonotary's office not being open, such Habeas Corpus could not be sued out 'till four o'clock in the afternoon.

Several gentlemen, friends and acquaintance of the said John Wilkes, Esq; member of parliament, applied for admittance into his house, which was then peremptorily refused by a *pretended* order from the secretary of state; which order, though repeatedly requested, was not or could not be produced.

As no proper or *legal* authority appeared to countenance such refusal, the gentlemen

thought themselves no ways obliged to obey the *verbal* commands of officers acting only under a *verbal* authority; and entered accordingly without further question or molestation from *those* officers.

Mr. Wood, the deputy secretary of state, being sent for, demanded the reason of such *forcible* entry: It was replied that *no* force had been used, and that the gentlemen thought themselves *legally* justified in what they had done.

Soon after this (whether sent for or not, does not appear) Philip Carteret Webb, Esq; solicitor to the treasury, came into the room, and some *private* conversation between him and Mr. Wood having passed, the latter asked, if any gentleman then present would attend or inspect the officers while they were sealing up all papers in the house of Mr. Wilkes; or used words to that or the like effect.

Mr. Wilkes having declined accepting of the like offer, no person then present thought himself authorized to take upon him such inspection.

Notwithstanding it was known, that the court of common pleas had granted an Habeas Corpus, of which fact, Philip Carteret Webb, Esq; solicitor to the treasury, at that time at Lord Halifax's, was then well assured; yet was the said John Wilkes, Esq; member of parliament, committed to the Tower of London.

His solicitor and one of his council, soon after they heard of such commitment, went to the Tower in order to consult with the said John Wilkes, about the *legal* methods to be pursued for his enlargement, but were denied admittance; Major Ransford informing them, that he had received *orders* from the *secretary of state*, not to admit *any person whatsoever*, to speak with or see the said John Wilkes: and further informed them, that he had just before refused the right honourable the earl Temple such admittance.

On Sunday, May the first, the same gentlemen between the hours of twelve and one, called again upon Major Ransford, on the same occasion; but were again

denied admittance, as were soon after many noblemen and gentlemen of the first distinction, and Mr. Wilkes's own brother.

After such denial, Mr. Wilkes's solicitor demanded of the Major a copy of the warrant, under which Mr. Wilkes was committed to the Tower; which was readily granted by the Major, and of which the following is a true copy.

Charles earl of Egremont and  
George Dunk earl of Halifax lords  
of his majesty's most honourable  
privy council and principal secre-  
taries of state.

These are in his majesty's name to authorize and require you to receive into your custody the body of John Wilkes, esq; herewith sent you for being the author and publisher of a most infamous and seditious libel intitled the North Briton number 45 tending to inflame the minds and alienate the affections of the people, from his majesty and to excite them to traiterous insurrections against the

government, and to keep him safe and close until he shall be delivered by due course of law, and for so doing this shall be your warrant. Given at St. James's the 30th day of April 1763 in the third year of his majesty's reign.

*signed*

Egremont

L. S.

Dunk Halifax

L. S.

To the right hon. John Lord Berkley of Stratton constable of his majesty's Tower of London, or to the lieutenant of the said Tower or his deputy.

Philip Carteret Webb, esq; solicitor to the treasury, then being present in the said Major Ransford's room, Mr. Wilkes's council and solicitor applied to the said Mr. Webb for admittance to the said Mr. Wilkes.

Philip Carteret Webb, esq; desired Major Ransford to allow such admittance, which he would indemnify; the Major,

with a spirit becoming a good officer, replied, he could not disobey orders.

Philip Carteret Webb, esq; reanswered, he believed there must have been a mistake in the orders, and that, if either of the secretaries of state were in town, he would apply to them, and obtain such admittance as aforesaid, and that he would either send or bring an order for such admittance in the afternoon.

Upon this assertion, the said Mr. Wilkes's council and solicitor between eight and nine o'clock in the evening of the same day, again went to the Tower and applied for admittance as aforesaid. The Major having received no instructions from either the secretaries of state, or Philip Carteret Webb, esq; refused as before.

On the morning of Monday, the second of May, the court of common pleas ordered a return to their writ of Habeas Corpus, which return not then appearing to the court to be sufficient, the court ordered, that the said return should not at present be filed; but upon motion granted

another Habeas Corpus directed to the constable and so forth of the Tower of London.

Mr. Wilkes's solicitor and council the same day, between the hours of two and three, again went to the Tower, and made application to Major Ransford for admittance to the said John Wilkes, esq; but were refused such admittance, Major Ransford declaring that he received no orders from either of the secretaries of state to that purpose. There appeared upon the table of the said Major Ransford a written order for him to take down the names of all persons applying for admittance to Colonel Wilkes.

## MAGNA EST VERITAS.

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*ORDERS issued by the lieutenant governor of the Tower respecting the detention of John Wilkes, Esq;*

- ‘ That the warders appointed to keep a
- ‘ close prisoner, shall not presume to leave
- ‘ him for a moment alone, either night or



‘ day, or to change their duty, with other  
 ‘ warders, but by particular leave or or-  
 ‘ der from the constable, lieutenant, de-  
 ‘ puty lieutenant, or in their absence the  
 ‘ major of the Tower.

‘ They are to permit no person to  
 ‘ have admittance into the room he is  
 ‘ confined in, or to speak to him, but  
 ‘ by particular order brought them by  
 ‘ the major, or gentleman gaoler.’

The Major had likewise a written order,  
 to take down the names of all persons who  
 applied for admittance to Mr. Wilkes.

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On the morning of Tuesday May 3,  
 Mr. Wilkes was brought to the bar of the  
 court of Common Pleas, Westminster,  
 where he made the following speech.

‘ I FEEL myself happy to be at last  
 ‘ brought before a court, and before judges,  
 ‘ whose characteristic is the love of liberty.  
 ‘ I have many humble thanks to return  
 ‘ for the immediate order you were pleased  
 ‘ to issue, to give me an opportunity of

' laying my grievances before you. They  
 ' are of a kind hitherto unparalleled in this  
 ' free country, and I trust the consequences  
 ' will teach ministers of scottish and ar-  
 ' bitrary principles that the liberty of an  
 ' English subject is not to be sported away  
 ' with impunity, in this cruel and despo-  
 ' tic manner.

' I am accused of being the author of  
 ' the North Briton, No. 45. I shall only  
 ' remark upon that paper that it takes all  
 ' load of accusation from the sacred name  
 ' of a prince, whose family I love and ho-  
 ' nour as the glorious defenders of the cause  
 ' of liberty, and whose personal qualities are  
 ' so amiable, great, and respectable, that he  
 ' is deservedly the idol of his people. It is  
 ' the peculiar fashion and crime of these  
 ' times, and of those who hold high mi-  
 ' nisterial offices in government, to throw  
 ' every odious charge from themselves  
 ' upon majesty. The author of this pa-  
 ' per, whoever he may be, has, upon con-  
 ' stitutional principles, done directly the  
 ' reverse, and is therefore in me the sup-

' posed author, meant to be persecuted  
 ' accordingly. The particular cruelties  
 ' of my treatment, worse than if I had  
 ' been a scottish rebel, this court will  
 ' hear, and I dare say, from your justice  
 ' in due time redress.

' I may perhaps still have the means  
 ' left me to shew that I have been superior  
 ' to every temptation of corruption. They  
 ' may indeed have flattered themselves,  
 ' that when they found corruption could  
 ' not prevail, persecution might intimi-  
 ' date. I will shew myself superior to  
 ' both. My papers have been seized, per-  
 ' haps with a hope the better to deprive  
 ' me of that proof of their meanness, and  
 ' corrupt prodigality, which it may pos-  
 ' sibly, in a proper place, be yet in my  
 ' power to give."

He then pleaded by his council, Mr.  
 Serjeant Glynn, for his discharge, alledg-  
 ing that his commitment was not valid.  
 The debate lasted from eleven o'clock till  
 a quarter past two; when after several  
 learned arguments on both sides, he was

remanded back to the Tower; and his friends had, for the first time, the opportunity of access to him. At his departure from the hall, the acclamations of the people were, Liberty ! Liberty ! Wilkes for ever, and no excise ! The court then adjourned to Friday the 6th of May, at which time he was ordered to be brought up again, that the affair might be finally determined.

His friends now had the liberty of visiting him ; and perhaps no prisoner in the Tower of London ever before, was attended by such an illustrious train of visitors.

During this respite his majesty was pleased to issue orders to lord Egremont, to remove him from his post of colonel in the militia of the county of Buckingham, which was signified to him in the following letter.

*Copy of a letter from the Earl of Egremont  
to the Earl Temple.*

My Lord,

THE king having judged it improper,  
that John Wilkes, esq; should any longer  
continue to be colonel of the militia for  
the county of Buckingham, I am com-  
manded to signify his majesty's pleasure  
to your lordship, that you do forthwith  
give the necessary orders for displacing Mr.  
Wilkes, as an officer in the militia for the  
said county of Buckingham.

I am with respect,

My Lord,

Your lordships most obedient  
humble servant,

Whitehall,

EGREMONT.

May, 4, 1763.

*To the earl Temple.*

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*Letter from the earl Temple to John  
Wilkes, esq;*

S I R,

AT my return last night from the Tower,  
I received the enclosed letter from the Earl

of Egremont: in consequence of his majesty's commands therein signified, you will please to observe, that you no longer continue colonel of the militia for the county of Buckingham.

I cannot, at the same time, help expressing the concern I feel in the loss of an officer, by his deportment in command, endeared to the whole corps.

I am, Sir

Your most obedient,

And most humble servant,

TEMPLE.

Pall Mall,

May 5, 1763

To John Wilkes, esq;

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*Copy of a letter from John Wilkes, esq; to  
the Earl Temple.*

My Lord,

I HAVE this moment the honour of your lordship's letter, signifying his majesty's commands that I should no longer conti-

nue colonel of the militia for the county of Buckingham. I have only to return your lordship my warmest thanks for the spirit and zeal you have shewn in the support of that constitutional measure from the very beginning. Your lordship will please to remember, that I was amongst the foremost who offered their services to their country at that crisis. Buckinghamshire is sensible, and has always acknowledged, that no man but your lordship could have given success to that measure in our inland county. I am proud of the testimony your lordship is pleased to give me, and am happy, in these days of peace, to leave so amiable a corps in that perfect harmony, which has from the beginning subsisted.

I have the honour to be,

With unfeigned respect,

My Lord,

Your lordship's most obedient,

Tower, and most humble servant,

May 5, 1763.

JOHN WILKES.

To the Earl Temple

ANGLIÆ JURA in omni casu LIBERTATI  
dant Favorem.

*Impius et Crudelis* judicandus est qui LI-  
BERTATI non favet. *Coke Littleton.*

On Friday the 6th of May, Mr. Wilkes was brought up from the Tower to the court of common pleas, where (as soon as the court was seated) he made the following speech :

‘ My Lords,  
‘ FAR be it from me to regret that I have  
‘ passed so many more days in captivity,  
‘ as it will have afforded you an opportu-  
‘ nity of doing upon mature reflection,  
‘ and repeated examination, the more sig-  
‘ nal justice to my country. The liberty  
‘ of all peers and gentlemen, and what  
‘ touches me more sensibly, that of all the  
‘ middling and inferior set of people, who  
‘ stand most in need of protection, is in  
‘ my case this day to be finally decided  
‘ upon : a question of such importance as  
‘ to determine at once, whether English



' liberty be a reality or a shadow. Your  
 ' own freeborn hearts will feel with in-  
 ' dignation and compassion all that load  
 ' of oppression under which I have so long  
 ' laboured. Close imprisonment, the ef-  
 ' fect of premeditated malice ; all access  
 ' for more than two days denied to me ;  
 ' my house ransacked and plundered ; my  
 ' most private and secret concerns di-  
 ' vulged ; every vile and malignant infi-  
 ' nuation even of high treason itself, no  
 ' less industriously than falsely circulated,  
 ' by my cruel and implacable enemies, to-  
 ' gether with all the various insolence of  
 ' office, form but a part of my unexam-  
 ' pled ill treatment. Such inhuman prin-  
 ' ciples of star chamber tyranny, will, I  
 ' trust, by this court, upon this solemn  
 ' occasion, be finally extirpated, and  
 ' henceforth every innocent man, how-  
 ' ever poor and unsupported, may hope  
 ' to sleep in peace and security in his own  
 ' house, unviolated by king's messengers,  
 ' and the arbitrary mandates of an over-  
 ' bearing secretary of state.

' I will no longer delay your justice.  
 ' The nation is impatient to hear, nor can  
 ' be safe or happy till that is obtained.  
 ' If the same persecution is after all to  
 ' carry me before another court, I hope I  
 ' shall find that the genuine spirit of Mag-  
 ' na Charta, that glorious inheritance,  
 ' that distinguishing characteristic of Eng-  
 ' lishmen, is as religiously revered *there*,  
 ' as I know it is *here*, by the great per-  
 ' sonages, before whom I have now the  
 ' happiness to stand; and (as in the ever-  
 ' memorable case of the *imprisoned bishops*)  
 ' an independent *jury* of free-born Eng-  
 ' lishmen that will persist to determine my  
 ' fate, as in conscience bound, upon con-  
 ' stitutional principles, by a verdict of *guilty*  
 ' or *not guilty*, I ask no more at the  
 ' hands of my countrymen.'

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After which the court proceeded to  
 give their opinion: and Mr. Wilkes was  
 ordered to be *discharged*. He then ad-

ressed himself to the court in the words following.

‘ My Lords,

‘ GREAT as my joy must naturally be at  
 ‘ the decision which *this court* with a true  
 ‘ *spirit of liberty*, has been pleased to make  
 ‘ concerning the *unwarrantable seizure of*  
 ‘ *my person*, and all the other consequen-  
 ‘ tial grievances, allow me to assure you  
 ‘ that I feel it far less sensibly *on my own*  
 ‘ *account*, than I do for *the public*. The  
 ‘ sufferings of *an individual* are *a trifling*  
 ‘ *object*, when compared with the *whole*,  
 ‘ and I should blush to feel for *myself* in  
 ‘ comparison with considerations of a na-  
 ‘ ture so *transcendently superior*.

‘ I will not trouble you with my poor  
 ‘ thanks. Thanks are due to you from  
 ‘ the whole *English* nation, and from *all*  
 ‘ the subjects of the *English* crown. They  
 ‘ will be paid you, together with every tes-  
 ‘ timony of zeal and affection to *the learn-*  
 ‘ *ed serjeant*,\* who has so *ably* and so *con-*

\* Mr. Serjeant Glynn.

‘ *stitutionally* pleaded my cause, and in  
 ‘ mine (with pleasure I say it) *the cause of*  
 ‘ *liberty*. Every testimony of my grati-  
 ‘ tude is justly due to *you*, and I take  
 ‘ leave of *this court* with a veneration and  
 ‘ respect, which no time can obliterate,  
 ‘ nor can the most grateful heart suffici-  
 ‘ ently express.’

When Mr. Wilkes had ended, the au-  
 dience burst into an *universal shout*, which  
 was *often* repeated. Mr. Wilkes staid  
 some time in a room adjoining to the court,  
 in expectation that the crowd would dis-  
 perse: at last, finding that it continually  
 encreased, he went out of the back door  
 of the common pleas, and was received  
 by a prodigious multitude of people who  
 attended him, amidst continual acclama-  
 tions, to his own house in Great George  
 Street, Westminster. The evening con-  
 cluded with bonfires, illuminations, and  
 other rejoicings.

VIVANT REX ET JUDICES REGIS.

On Mr. Wilkes's return home from the court of common pleas, he sent the following letter to the secretaries of state.

Great George Street, May 6, 1763.

My Lords,

ON my return here from Westminster Hall, where I have been discharged from my commitment to the Tower under your lordships warrant, I find that my house has been robb'd, and am informed that the stolen goods are in the possession of one or both of your lordships. I therefore insist that you do forthwith return them to

Your humble servant

JOHN WILKES.

*Directed to*

the earls of Egremont and Halifax, his majesty's principal secretaries of state.

[Next morning Mr. Wilkes in person, attended only by Mr. Grignion, of Ruffel-Street, Covent-Garden, went to sir John

Fielding's, in Bow-Street, and demanded a warrant to search the houses of the earls of Egremont and Halifax, his majesty's principal secretaries of state, for the goods stolen out of his house, which he had received information were lodged at the said houses of the secretaries of state, or one of them. John Spinnage, Esq; the sitting justice, refused to issue the said warrant.]

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The next day Mr. Wilkes received the following answer to his letter.

Great George Street, May 7, 1763.

SIR,

IN answer to your letter of yesterday, in which you take upon you to make use of the *indecent* and *scurrilous* expressions of your having found your house had been robbed, and that *the stolen goods are in our possession*: we acquaint you that your papers were seized in consequence of the heavy charge brought against you, for being the author of an infamous and seditious libel, tending to inflame the minds,

and alienate the affections of the people from his majesty, and excite them to traitorous insurrections against the government; for which libel, notwithstanding your discharge from your commitment to the Tower, his majesty has ordered you to be prosecuted, by his attorney general.

We are at a loss to guess what you mean by *stolen goods*: but such of your papers as do not lead to a proof of your guilt, shall be restored to you; such as are necessary for that purpose, it was our duty to deliver over to those, whose office it is to collect the evidence, and manage the prosecution against you.

We are

Your humble servants,

EGREMONT.

DUNK HALIFAX.

*Directed to*

Mr. Wilkes.

*To this answer Mr. Wilkes sent the following reply, viz.*

Great George-street, May 9, 1763.

‘ My Lords,

‘ LITTLE did I expect, when I was re-  
 ‘ quiring from your lordships what an  
 ‘ Englishman has a right to, his property  
 ‘ taken from him, and said to be in your  
 ‘ lordships possession, that I should have  
 ‘ received in answer, from persons in your  
 ‘ high station, the expressions of indecent  
 ‘ and scurrilous applied to my legal de-  
 ‘ mands. The respect I bear to his ma-  
 ‘ jesty, whose servants it seems you still  
 ‘ are, though you stand legally convicted  
 ‘ of having in me violated, in the highest  
 ‘ and most offensive manner, the liberties  
 ‘ of all the commons in England, prevents  
 ‘ my returning you an answer in the same  
 ‘ Billingsgate language. If I considered  
 ‘ you only in your private capacities, I  
 ‘ should treat you both according to your  
 ‘ deserts: but where is the wonder that

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‘ men, who have attacked the sacred li-  
 ‘ berty of the subject, and have issued an  
 ‘ illegal warrant to seize his property,  
 ‘ should proceed to such libellous expres-  
 ‘ sions? You say, “ that such of my pa-  
 ‘ pers shall be restored to me, as do not  
 ‘ lead to a proof of my guilt.” I owe this  
 ‘ to your apprehension of an action, not  
 ‘ to your love of justice; and in that light,  
 ‘ if I can believe your lordships assurances,  
 ‘ the whole will be returned to me. I fear  
 ‘ neither your prosecution, nor your per-  
 ‘ secution; and I will assert the security of  
 ‘ my own house, the liberty of my person,  
 ‘ and every right of the people, not so  
 ‘ much for my own sake, as for the sake of  
 ‘ every one of my English fellow subjects.

I am,

my Lords,

Your humble servant,

JOHN WILKES.

*Directed to*

the earls of Egremont and Ha-  
 lifax, his majesty’s principal se-  
 cretaries of state.

[On the first day of the sessions of parliament  
(Nov. 15, 1763.) Mr. Wilkes made the  
following speech.]

‘ Mr. Speaker,

‘ I THINK it my duty to lay before the  
‘ house a few facts, which have occurred  
‘ since our last meeting, because, in my  
‘ humble opinion, (which I shall always  
‘ submit to this house) the rights of all the  
‘ Commons of England, and the privi-  
‘ leges of parliament have, in my person,  
‘ been highly violated. I shall at present,  
‘ content myself with barely stating the  
‘ facts, and leave the mode of proceeding  
‘ to the wisdom of the house.

‘ On the 30th of April, in the morn-  
‘ ing, I was made a prisoner in my own  
‘ house, by some of the king’s messengers.  
‘ I demanded by what authority they had  
‘ forced their way into my room, and was  
‘ shewn a warrant in which no person was  
‘ named in particular, but generally the  
‘ authors, printers and publishers of a se-  
‘ ditious and treasonable paper, entitled,  
‘ The North Briton, No, 45. The mes-

' sengers insisted on my going before lord  
 ' Halifax, which I absolutely refused, be-  
 ' cause the warrant was, I thought, illegal,  
 ' and did not respect me. I applied, by  
 ' my friends, to the court of common  
 ' pleas, for a Habeas Corpus, which was  
 ' granted, but as the proper office was not  
 ' then open, it could not immediately is-  
 ' sue. I was afterwards carried, by vio-  
 ' lence, before the earls of Egremont and  
 ' Halifax, whom I informed of the or-  
 ' ders given by the court of common pleas  
 ' for the Habeas Corpus; and I enlarged  
 ' upon this subject to Mr. Webb, the so-  
 ' licitor of the treasury. I was, however,  
 ' hurried away to the Tower by another  
 ' warrant, which declared me the author  
 ' and publisher of a most infamous and se-  
 ' ditious libel, intitled, *The North Briton*,  
 ' No. 45. The word *treasonable* was  
 ' dropped, yet I was detained a close pri-  
 ' soner, and no person was suffered to  
 ' come near me for almost three days, al-  
 ' though my council, and several of my  
 ' friends, demanded admittance, in order

‘ to concert the means of recovering my  
 ‘ liberty. My house was plundered, my  
 ‘ bureaux broke open, by order of two of  
 ‘ your members, Mr. Wood and Mr.  
 ‘ Webb, and all my papers carried away.  
 ‘ After six days imprisonment I was dis-  
 ‘ charged, by the unanimous judgment of  
 ‘ the court of common pleas, “ That the  
 ‘ “ privilege of this house extended to my  
 ‘ “ case.” Notwithstanding this solemn de-  
 ‘ cision of one of the king’s superior  
 ‘ courts of justice, a few days after, I was  
 ‘ served with a subpoena upon an informa-  
 ‘ tion exhibited against me in the king’s  
 ‘ bench. I lost no time in consulting the  
 ‘ best books, as well as the greatest living  
 ‘ authorities; and from the truest judg-  
 ‘ ment I could form, I thought that the  
 ‘ serving me with a subpoena was another  
 ‘ violation of the privilege of parliament,  
 ‘ which I will neither desert nor betray,  
 ‘ and therefore I have not yet entered an  
 ‘ appearance.

‘ I now stand in the judgment of the  
 ‘ house, submitting, with the utmost de-

' ference, the whole case to their justice  
 ' and wisdom, and beg leave to add, that  
 ' if after this important business has in its  
 ' full extent been maturely weighed, you  
 ' shall be of opinion, that I am intitled  
 ' to privilege, I shall then be not only  
 ' ready, but eagerly desirous, to wave that  
 ' privilege, and to put myself upon a  
 ' jury of my countrymen.'

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*Mr. Wilkes's letter to Mr. Martin.*

*Great George-street, Westminster, Nov. 16.*

' S I R,

' YOU complained yesterday before five  
 ' hundred gentlemen, that you had been  
 ' *stabbed in the dark* by the North Briton,  
 ' but I have reason to believe you was not  
 ' so much in the dark as you affected and  
 ' chose to be. Was the complaint, made  
 ' before so many gentlemen, on purpose  
 ' that they might interpose? To cut off  
 ' every pretence of ignorance as to the  
 ' author, I whisper in your ear, that every  
 ' passage in the North Briton, in which

‘ you have been named, or even alluded  
‘ to, was written by

Your humble servant,

JOHN WILKES.

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*Mr. Martin's Answer.*

*Abingdon-street, Nov. 16, 1763.*

‘ S I R,

‘ AS I said in the House of Commons  
‘ yesterday, that the writer of the North  
‘ Briton, who had stabbed me in the dark,  
‘ was a cowardly, as well as a malignant  
‘ and infamous scoundrel; and your letter  
‘ of this morning's date, acknowledges  
‘ that every passage of the North Briton,  
‘ in which I have been named, or even al-  
‘ luded to, was written by yourself, I must  
‘ take the liberty to repeat, that you are a  
‘ malignant and infamous scoundrel, and  
‘ that I desire to give you an opportunity  
‘ of shewing me whether the epithet of  
‘ cowardly was rightly applied or not.

‘ I desire that you may meet me in  
‘ Hyde Park immediately, with a brace of  
‘ pistols each, to determine our difference.

' I shall go to the ring in Hyde-Park,  
 ' with my pistols so concealed that nobody  
 ' may see them; and I will wait in expecta-  
 ' tion of you one hour. As I shall call in my  
 ' way at your house to deliver this letter,  
 ' I propose to go from thence directly to  
 ' the ring in Hyde-Park, from whence we  
 ' may proceed, if it be necessary, to any  
 ' more private place; and I mention that  
 ' I shall wait an hour in order to give you  
 ' full time to meet me.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

SAM. MARTIN.

The circumstances of the duel related  
 by Mr. Wilkes are as follow: when the  
 gentlemen met in Hyde Park, they walked  
 together for a little while to avoid some  
 company, which seemed coming up to  
 them. They brought each a pair of pis-  
 tols. When they were alone, the first fire  
 was from Mr. Martin's pistol. Mr. Mar-  
 tin's pistol missed Mr. Wilkes, and the  
 pistol in Mr. Wilkes's hand flashed in the

pan. The gentlemen then each took one of Mr. Wilkes's pair of pistols. Mr. Wilkes missed, and the ball of Mr. Martin's pistol lodged in Wilkes's belly. Mr. Wilkes bled immediately very much. Mr. Martin then came up and desired to give him all the assistance in his power. Mr. Wilkes replied, that Mr. Martin had behaved like a man of honour, that he was killed, and insisted on Mr. Martin's making his immediate escape, and no creature should know from Mr. Wilkes how the affair happened. Upon this they parted, but Mr. Martin came up again in two or three minutes to Mr. Wilkes, offering him a second time his assistance, but Mr. Wilkes again insisted on his going off. Mr. Martin expressed his concern for Mr. Wilkes, said the thing was too well known by several people, who came up almost directly, and then went away. Mr. Wilkes was carried home, but would not tell any circumstance of the case, 'till he found it so much known. He only said to the Surgeon, &c. that it was an affair of honour.



The day following Mr. Wilkes imagining himself in the greatest danger, returned Mr. Martin his letter, that no evidence might appear against him; and insisted upon it with his relations, that in case of his death no trouble should be given Mr. Martin, for he had behaved as a man of honour.

Mr. Martin not at the same time returning Mr. Wilkes's letter, occasioned somebody to remark, ' That in all probability ' it was kept in order to be made use of as ' a proof of Mr. Wilkes being concerned ' in the North Briton.' I own, said the remarker, that I can account for this behaviour of Mr. Martin no more than I can for his tamely bearing above eight months the abuse upon him. Has he been all this time (Sundays not excepted) practising at a target? that report is confirmed by all his neighbours in the country. Yet, after all, he did not venture to send to Mr. Wilkes, but before five hundred gentlemen, ready to interpose, seemed to intend to begin a quarrel, I suppose, that it might

end there. Mr. Wilkes chose coolly, to take it up the next morning, by a private letter to Mr. Martin, who insisted on pistols, without naming the sword, though the choice of weapons was, by the laws of honour, in Mr. Wilkes.

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*A letter from Dr. Brocklesby to Mr. Wilkes.*

Dear Sir,

LATE last night I received the inclosed letter from my most ingenious and worthy friend Dr. Hebberden, and also the inclosed copy of an order of the house of commons, to report upon your case on the 19th of January; I am therefore to entreat you, to fix the hour for our attendance at your house on Monday, and I will take care to appoint Dr. Hebberden and Mr. Hebberden, and Mr. Hawkins,

I am, dear Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

RICHARD BROCKLESBY.

Norfolk-street,

Sunday morning,

Dec. 18, 1763.

*Letter from Dr. Hebberden to Dr. Brock-  
lesby, which was the inclosed letter above-  
mentioned.*

*Cecil-street, Dec. 17.*

Dear Sir,

AN order of the house of commons is come to Mr. Hawkins and me, to attend Mr. Wilkes from time to time in order to observe the progress of the cure, and to make a report to the house, together with you and Mr. Graves. You will oblige us by acquainting Mr. Wilkes with this ; and if you will let us know at what time you intend to see Mr. Wilkes on Monday, we will be ready to meet you there. Mr. Hawkins desires that the appointment may be for some hours after twelve.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

W. HEBBERDEN.

*A card from Mr. Wilkes to Dr. Hebb-  
erden.*

MR. Wilkes presents his compliments to Dr. Hebberden, and is duly sensible of

the kind care and concern of the house of commons, not only for his health but for his speedy recovery. He is attended by Dr. Brocklesby, of whose integrity and ability he has had the experience of many years, and on whose skill he has the most perfect reliance. Mr. Wilkes cannot but still be of opinion, that there is a peculiar propriety in the choice he at first made of Dr. Brocklesby, for the cure of what is called a *gun-shot wound*, from the circumstances of the doctor's having been several years physician to the army; but at the same time entertains a real esteem for Dr. Hebbesden's great merit, and though he cannot say that he wishes to see the doctor at present, he hopes that he shall be well enough to beg that honour to eat a bit of mutton in

*Monday, Dec. 19. Great George-street.*

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*A card from Mr. Wilkes to Mr. Hawkins.*  
 MR. Wilkes presents his compliments to Mr. Hawkins. He some time ago, from motives of humanity, readily consented,

at the request of Mr. Martin, to receive the visits of Dr. Hebberden and Mr. Hawkins. He is now acquainted that the honour Mr. Hawkins intends him, of a visit to-day, is not at the desire of Mr. Martin; and therefore he begs that it may be deferred 'till he is more capable of enjoying company. He has every reason to continue perfectly satisfied with the conduct of Mr. Graves, a military surgeon of eminence, who extracted the ball; he hopes, in a few weeks, to be so well recovered, as to be able to receive Mr. Hawkins in Great George-street: and shall be impatient for an opportunity of shewing the just regard he will ever pay to so distinguished a character.

*Monday, Dec. 19.*

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*Letter from Mr. Wilkes to Dr. Brocklesby.  
Great George-street, Monday, Dec. 19, 1763.*

Dear Sir,

I HAVE the favour of your letter, and of the papers inclosed. I think you are rather deficient in politeness, that you do

not congratulate your friend on the *new* and *singular* honour done him by the *house of commons*, in appointing a *physician* and *surgeon* to attend him. The *lords* set them such an example, by ordering the *physician* and *surgeon* of a member of the other house to their bar, to be examined concerning his state of health. I had before received other unmerited obligations from their *lordships*, and the old friendships of Lord *Sandwich*, though I own I was rather put to the blush *by their publishing* to the world what they pretended was found [perhaps put] among the things stolen from me. If a man makes a private *essay on woman*, should all the world see it? is a treatise against the spleen or the *tædium vitæ*, so dangerous as now to become a state-crime for the cognizance of our present — I rulers, or rather In———s? Has the nasty gummy, blubbering, over-grown boy of a *lord*, as barbarous and blust'ring as the *north*, has he likewise received his orders to *denounce* to the commons a laughable poem, as a horrid crime to make all good chris-

tians shudder? are the most wretched and impious lines, to be *forged*, that a work which idolizes the sex, may be brought into judgment before the *crafty Scot*, who never loved any woman, and who——

This last act of the *commons* seems almost to perfect the scene, and quite overwhelms me with gratitude. Yet though I am a young member, I cannot but observe and lament, that the antient, established forms of parliament have in the present case been laid aside, as if order had taken leave of the *house* with good old *Onslow*. The course of business has always been, that affairs of importance should previously go to a *committee*. The affair you have mentioned is of so much real consequence, that it should (in my poor opinion) have been referred to *two committees*. *First*, it should have gone to the *committee of ways and means*, to contrive how the *state physician* and *surgeon* can get into my house. *Secondly*, to the *committee of supply*, to vote the fees due to the gentlemen for their attendance; but I

have public ~~economy~~ so much at heart, (though I make no parade of it) that I will save the nation that expence; for I will not suffer either of them to enter my doors.

The *commons*, like true country people, seem to have an overflowing of kindness for me, which is very apt to surfeit : and yet like the others, sometimes in the same moment, they fail in a point of good breeding, even to one of their own members. The *house* desires Dr. *Hebberden* and Mr. *Hawkins* to come to me, but forgot to desire me to receive them, and I most certainly will not.

Surely, my dear Sir, this matter has been too lightly determined upon by the *honourable house*. It is pretty well known that I have already a *physician* and *surgeon*, whose characters the foul breath of slander never reached, and whom I confide in and love. Why should I admit any others? am I to consent to an unjust slur upon gentlemen, with whom I have all the reason in the world to be satisfied? shall I



I concur in suffering party madness to fix a vile suspicion, where I know that it ought not to rest? I will never countenance so shameful a proceeding. Honour, justice, gratitude, private friendship, equally forbid it.

My brother members seem quite wild in their rage. They would force a *physician* and *surgeon* upon me, when I have one of each already, and they forget that my dear friend and *chaplain* CHURCHILL has left me for some time. Would it not therefore have looked better, if these obliging friends had shewn some regard to my *spiritual* concerns, and had ordered their own chaplain, the very *learned* brother of the very *conscientious* merchant, and of the very *acute* secretary to attend me; or they might perhaps have prevailed on the good Mr. *Kidgell*. He is so ready to every laudable (and lucrative) work, he would not, I believe, have hesitated. You might, in time, have had *observations* on my *conversion* and *apostleship*, though I hope not in a way to make you doubt of

the whole ; at least you would have been sure of a SERIES OF LETTERS in the LEDGER, the profits to be divided between the said *Kidgell* and his partner *Mac-Faden*, according to the said *Kidgell's* former plan. I think the *lords* too ought to have considered this important point *chaplainship*, and lord *Sandwich*, or lord *Le Despencer*, or some other *pious* lord, should have moved to send me a *divine legation of the bishop of Gloucester*. I have been said to have doubts. I really have none. If I had, that *orthodox* bishop would surely be able to remove them ; only I should fear, that for every one of mine he carried away, he would leave ten of his own behind with me. I might likewise be treated with quaint persuasives to *continence*. It could never come more *a propos*, nor with a greater probability of success, for that cold, frozen virtue of *chastity*, the virtue of age, not of youth, seems likely to be as much my portion this year, as it has been the pedant's thro'

every year of his life\*. His virtue is fixed as in a frost, beyond all the powers of genial spring, or a most luscious wife, mine I trust will thaw, melt, and resolve itself to sprightly dew long before the first breath of zephyr.

After all, my dear doctor, I might, I believe, admit the state-physician and surgeon without any danger of a *Russian hæmirrboidal cholera*, but I will not do any thing on compulsion, Hal. I do not suspect either of them in the least to resemble a Talbot, a Martin, a Forbes, or a Dix. On the contrary, they are both amiable men, and therefore, I wish you would bring them here to dinner as soon as I shall get a little better, for, at present, if they come, I should fear they would place

• • Ask of the learn'd the way? the learn'd are blind?

That way a Warburton could never find.

*Essay on woman*, ep. 4. l. 40.

The first line, is l. 19. of ep. 4. in

Pope's *essay on man*.

themselves, *by authority*, one on the right, and the other on the left hand, of their poor patient, and, like Sancho's doctor with his wand, forbid my tasting any thing I ogled, or rather *squinted* at.

I am alone; if you are disengaged, I wish you to come here at four, and I will give you half of my boiled chicken. We never can want food for laughter, while, in the phrase of the *fly Fox*, George Grenville has the *conduct of the house of commons*.

I am ever, my dear Sir,

Your affectionate humble servant,

JOHN WILKES.

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[While Mr. Wilkes lay dangerously ill of his wound, it was given out by the advocates for the ministry, that as soon as he came to the house he would be expelled: of course therefore a vacancy would happen for the borough of Aylesbury which he represented; and somebody put the following paragraph in the London Evening Post :

*Extract of a letter from Aylesbury, Dec. 1.*

‘ WE have had great canvassing here  
 ‘ since there has been a talk of expelling  
 ‘ Mr. Wilkes. Sir William Lee has been  
 ‘ very busy in behalf of his friend the  
 ‘ Captain; but it is not believed he will  
 ‘ succeed, because it is very ungenerous  
 ‘ and ungentleman like, in such a parti-  
 ‘ cular case as this, to solicit interest to  
 ‘ succeed a man before it is certainly  
 ‘ known whether he will be expelled.’

Which occasioned the following letter.

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*To the printer of the London Evening Post.*

S I R,

HAVING seen in your paper of last Saturday a reflection upon me, for having interested myself in behalf of a friend, upon the supposition of a vacancy likely to happen for that borough, I desire you to inform your anonymous correspondent, that I have done nothing therein, or upon any occasion whatever, that I am not ready to

vindicate as a gentleman to any one that shall require it.

Hartwell,  
Dec. 6, 1763.

W. LEE.

Although Mr. Wilkes was very innocent of the paragraph alluded to, yet he could not help taking notice of so extraordinary a letter; and immediately wrote the following answer.

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*To Sir William Lee of Hartwell, in the  
county of Bucks, Bart.*

S I R,

GIVE me leave to congratulate you on your having commenced author, and the *London Evening Post*, on the great acquisition made of such talents as your's for that paper. I doubt not of your soon distancing all the other *ministerial* writers; and though you may not regularly on Saturday nights have your pay counted out to you, yet some little snug fine-cure, or a ministerial mandate to a county, for what you were very lately so awkwardly

gaping after, (though thank heaven, you were disappointed,) may, in the end, recompense your labours.

I must, however, recommend to you, rather more temper, you *start* too furiously; you should first play with bended reins, then urge by degrees more rapidly, and at last try the whole fury of the course. As a young man, you are intitled to portion, but you should have laughed at an idle paragraph in a news-paper, in which your GREAT name is not at length. Did the conscientiousness of having merited that little satire, sting you? I have a right to ask you; for in your curious letter, you say *I have done nothing therein, or upon any occasion whatever* (bravo! W. Lee de seipso) *that I am not ready to vindicate as a gentleman to any one THAT* (not who) *shall require it.* Now I will only remark *that, that that* worthy baronet urges it the very pink of chivalry, and is *that that* is very brave. But do you mean to *vindicate* it by your *pen* or your *sword*? if by your *pen*, as you offer to *vindicate it to any one,*

I, *A. B.* beg to ask you a few questions. Was it consistent with *honour* and *humanity* to begin a canvass in the borough of Aylesbury, when there was no certainty of any vacancy, and the present member lay dangerously ill from an affair of *honour*? Was this christian like, pouring oil into his bleeding wounds; or, was it not, as far as you could, planting thorns under a sick man's pillow? Was it fair, candid, or just, ordering application to be made to one of the returning officers, who is Mr. Wilkes's tenant? Have you ever had any provocation from Mr. Wilkes? Have you not always been upon terms of civility with him? Justify then to the world, the propriety, the decency, or even the *humanity* of your conduct.

But, perhaps, I mistake you, and you meant to justify it by your *sword*. You have just begun by *inking* your *maiden pen*, and you might possibly mean at the same time to contrive to *flesh* your *maiden sword*. Pray be explicit, and let me know if you meant to send a challenge to all the world



by the *London Evening Post*. Was ever any thing so truly noble and great ?

But I tire you and myself : I shall therefore conclude, with only begging of you, that, instead of beginning any disturbances at Aylesbury, you would keep your own little parish of Hartwell quiet, and be reconciled to a worthy clergyman, who never offended you, and whom your good father cherished, and honoured.

*White Hart, Aylesbury,*

*Dec. 16, 1763.*

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*The following papers relate to the attempt which one Mr. Dun, made on Mr. Wilkes's life.*

In the King's } JOHN WILKES, of  
Bench. } Aylesbury in the county  
of Bucks, Esq; Matthew Brown, servant  
to the said Mr. Wilkes, and Mathias Darly,  
of the parish of St. Anne, Soho, in the  
liberty of Westminster, engraver, severally make oath ; and first, the said John Wilkes for himself saith, That he this de-

ponent verily believes that he is in danger of his life, from the wicked, malicious, revengeful, and unprovoked menaces of one Alexander Dun, who (this deponent is informed) is a Scotch officer; and between eleven and twelve of the clock last Tuesday Evening demanded entrance into this deponent's house in Great George-Street, Westminster, and threatened violence to his person; and this deponent further saith, That about nine of the clock this morning he received the letter hereunto annexed, marked (A) which this deponent is informed, and verily believes, is of the hand writing of the said Alexander Dun: and this deponent, Matthew Brown, for himself saith, that he saw a person at the time first above mentioned make several very rude and violent endeavours to come into the house of the said Mr. Wilkes; and upon his being refused by this deponent, threatened revenge to Mr. Wilkes, and also to this deponent; and by the best description and information which this deponent has been able to collect, he

believes the said person's name is Alexander Dun : and this deponent Mathias Darly for himself saith, That he this deponent did yesterday write to Mr. Wilkes the letter hereunto annexed (B) the contents of which are true, and that the Scotch officer therein alluded to is the said Alexander Dun : and this deponent further saith, That he is not moved by any malice or resentment against the said Alexander Dun, but thought it his duty as a member of society, to make the above intimations to Mr. Wilkes, in order that he might concert the necessary measures for his personal safety. And therefore the said John Wilkes craves sureties of the peace against the said Alexander Dun, not out of hatred or malice, but merely for the preservation of his life and person from danger.

JOHN WILKES,  
MATTHEW BROWN,  
MATHIAS DARLY.

The deponent John Wilkes sworn at his house in Great George-street, Westminster, he being indisposed, the 8th day of December, 1763, before me,

W. Mapelsden, by Commission.

Matthew Brown and Mathias Darly, sworn in Great Ormond-street, the 8th day of December, 1763, before

E. WILMOT.

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S I R,                      *London, Dec. 8, 1763.*

AS I have something of consequence to communicate to you, I should be glad to know what time would be most convenient for me to call upon you this day, I called once before and was refused admittance. Be so good as send me an answer by my servant who will wait for it. Lieutenant Crokat of dragoons, who is now in Scotland, desires his compliments to you for the many civilities shewn him when he was quartered near your country seat; you

may be assured that many of the Scotch have still a regard for you, and none of them more so than your most humble and obedient servant,

ALEX. DUN.

Direct to me at Mr. Whyte's, peruke-maker, lieutenant of marines.

To John Wilkes, Esq;

(A)

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*London Dec. 7, 1763.*

S I R,

I SHOULD not do my duty if I did not acquaint you that the young Scotch officer, that wanted entrance at your house, is a villain, and his intentions are of blackish dye. I had been in his company for near four hours. That part of our conversation that relates to you, consisted chiefly of his intentions of massacring you the first opportunity, and that there was thirteen more gentlemen of Scotland of the

same resolution, and confederates of his, who was resolved to do it, or die in the attempt. Last night, when your trial was over, the gentleman at the coffee-house quitted the room that I was in (on account of the shouts in the Hall) and left the Scotch hero and I together, but I abruptly left the room, and went after the people to Great George-street, and on hearing a noise at your door, I went up, and, to my great surprise, saw the Scotchman a-trying for entrance; I knocked and had admittance, which enraged the hero so much, that he swore revenge against the servant, and was very troublesome; when I went out, I heard a gentleman taking him to task upon his vowing revenge on you or your servant, upon which I told the gentleman a small part of what I knew, and he put him in the hands of two watchmen, and ordered him to the roundhouse, but at the corner of Great George-street, I am told, he was rescued, and ran away. There was conversation passed between him and the company that is not safe to communi-

( 80 )

case by letter: his principles and zeal make it unsafe for such an abandoned wretch to be at large. Your own discretion, I hope, will guide you to prevent any thing that may be intended.

I am, with all respect,

Sir your's,

M. DARLY.

To Mr. Wilkes,  
Great George-street.

Cranborn alley,  
Leicester Fields.

(B)

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E. WILMOT.

L. S.

ENGLAND, } **W**HEREAS I have received information on  
to wit, }  
the oath of John Wilkes, Esq; Matthew Brown, and Mathias Daryl, That one Alexander Dun, between eleven and twelve o'clock on Tuesday evening last, demanded entrance into the house of John Wilkes, and threatened violence to his person; and

hath since, in the hearing of Mathias Darly, declared his intention to massacre the said John Wilkes the first opportunity ; and therefore the said John Wilkes craves sureties of the peace against the said Alexander Dun, not out of hatred or malice, but merely for the preservation of his life and person from danger.

These are therefore to will and require, and, in his majesty's name, strictly to charge and command you, and every of you, upon sight hereof, to apprehend and take the said Alexander Dun, and bring him before me, or one other of the justices of his majesty's court of King's Bench, if taken in or near the cities of London or Westminster, otherwise before some justice of the peace living near the place where he shall be herewith taken : to the end he may become bound with sufficient sureties for his personal appearance, in his majesty's court of King's Bench, on the first day of Hillary term, to answer the premises, and, in the mean time, to keep the peace, and be of good behaviour towards



all his Majesty's subjects, especially towards the said John Wilkes ; and hereof fail not at your peril.

Given under my hand and seal this eighth Day of December, 1763.

To Richard Elston my tipstaff, and to all chief and petty constables, head-boroughs, tythingmen, and all others whom these may concern.

Mr. Wilkes having appointed seven in the evening, on Thursday last, for an interview with the said Alexander Dun, he came punctually at the time, when he was apprehended in consequence of the above warrant.

[The following is taken from a paper that was circulated by Mr. Dun, with some remarks thereon.]

AS there is to be published by subscription, by lieutenant Alexander Dun of Marines, a book entitled, The history of a reduced officer, with advice to half-pay officers, and to officers entering the army ; a point explained concerning the sea and

marine officers : interspersed with various observations on the fair sex.

*Quo semel est imbuta recens survabit,  
Odorem Testa diu.*

To which is added, some advices to, and observations on, Mr. Wilkes's behaviour to the Scotch nation.

+++ The author may be heard of at the Parliament-tavern, near Westminster-hall, or at St. Clement's coffee-house in the Strand, if any gentlemen chuse to subscribe.—

Mr. Dun has had so much encouragement already from the nobility and quality, both in Britain, and in foreign countries, in this publication, that he would not have made it public had it not been for an accident which happened lately, now to be explained.

As Mr. Wilkes is mentioned in his treatise, he thought it incumbent upon him to wait upon Mr. Wilkes to see whether or not the dissensions betwixt the English and Scotch nations [*what are these dissensions ? nobody ever heard of them*] re-

ported to be occasioned by him were from real or imaginary causes. He had an offer of being introduced to Mr. Wilkes by several different gentlemen [WHO ?] and on Tuesday night [*near twelve o'clock*] went for that purpose, but was refused admittance ; was disappointed next day by breach of appointment [*What appointment ?*] and on Thursday Morning wrote Mr. Wilkes the following letter, which was sent by his servant.

To JOHN WILKES, Esq;

S I R,                      *London, Dec. 8, 1763.*

‘ AS I have something of consequence to  
 ‘ communicate to you, I should be glad  
 ‘ to know what time would be most con-  
 ‘ venient for me to call upon you this day :  
 ‘ I called once before, and was refused  
 ‘ admittance. Be so good as send me an  
 ‘ answer by my servant, who will wait for  
 ‘ it.

‘ Lieutenant Crockat of dragoons, who  
 ‘ is now in Scotland, desires his compli-  
 ‘ ments to you for the many civilities  
 ‘ shewn him when he was quartered near  
 ‘ your country seat. You may be assured  
 ‘ that many of the Scotch have still a re-  
 ‘ gard for you ; and none of them more  
 ‘ so than your most humble and obedient  
 ‘ servant,

ALEX. DUN,

This letter he sent at nine o’clock in the morning ; a little after one o’clock he received, by his servant, the following card.

Mr. Dun,

Thursday.

‘ Mr. Wilkes’s compliments to Mr. Dun, and desires to see him at seven o’clock this evening : is obliged to him for the account of Mr. Crockat.’

In consequence of this desire, Mr. Dun went to Mr. Wilkes’s lodgings [*Who does Mr. Wilkes lodge with? This is the true Edinburgh stile : has Mr. Wilkes a house or only a flat : two or three rooms they call a flat at Edinburgh*] in George-street, at the time appointed—When he came there he knocked gently at the door, and was admitted by a servant who called himself Mr. Wilkes’s Butler; he asked Mr. Dun to walk into a parlour until Mr. Wilkes should come down; wanted to know if he had any covers [*as he had desired by his boy*] to be signed; and that he would carry them up to Mr. Wilkes: Mr. Dun then gave him a dozen, which he took away in order to carry up to Mr. Wilkes, who, he said, was in the room above.—

In a few minutes after, the Butler came back, in a mild manner desired Mr. Dun to walk above to his master, who was waiting for him: he immediately followed, and was scarcely out of the parlour door, when five or six men caught fast hold of him, and brought him down; some of them were gentlemen, whose names Mr. Dun does not chuse to mention, who used him very well afterwards: that violence was offered is evident, because one of the gentlemen had the joints of two of his fingers dislocated: they then searched Mr. Dun, but found no deadly weapon about him; indeed he had a penknife in his waistcoat pocket, [*loose in his left hand coat pocket*] which they kept, and said he had brought it with intention to kill Mr. Wilkes. That he may do impartial justice to all, he here declares, that in a little time they returned his pocket-book, papers, &c. and upon his observing that he was almost strangled, they brought several different kinds of wine to chuse of; drank his health, and

said they believed they were all in the wrong; [*not true*] but that he must go to some genteel house and be confined a little, until he should clear up this matter, as Mr. Wilkes had a warrant against him on suspicion of his intending to massacre him [*according to his own declaration.*] They then asked, if he did not think it proper for them to have acted this part? He said not, as he thought it was taking hold of him under shew of friendship, as the card expressed. He asked if his letter did not deserve civil treatment? To which Mr. Coates, justice of peace, [*in Surry*] was pleased to reply, That Mr. Wilkes had acted by his advice; that they found out he was a man of education from his letter, and therefore judged him the more dangerous, Mr. Coates told him, that Mr. Wilkes desired he would write to him and clear up the matter more fully, and he would send him an answer [*not true.*] They then brought Mr. Dun, pen, ink, paper, and wax, and he wrote, directed

to Mr. Wilkes in his lodgings : as Mr. Wilkes sent him a verbal answer, he will not insert a copy of this letter ; he will only observe, that he procured him a dozen of franks from Mr. Fitzherbert ; thanked him for what he wrote ; and said that he would have done them himself, but was not well. This message was sent him by a gentleman who carried up Mr. Dun's letter. Mr. Fitzherbert he must thank for likewise subscribing to his performance in Mr. Wilkes's house, by only hearing a few pages read.

He does here declare he has no animosity against Mr. Wilkes, nor any man in Britain ; some have shewn it in London, and that very lately, against him, for no other cause but his mentioning Mr. Wilkes in this performance : he has been often insulted and beat, [BEAT !] and bruised, but as justice always will get the better, and innocence will be protected, has always come off to his own satisfaction ; and is not this moment afraid, although under lock and key in Stanhope-street.



He now, as an officer who has suffered in his majesty's service, claims protection : is but young, cannot therefore command temper every moment to put up with hearing his countrymen in Scotland abused ; but he wishes sincerely the whole would be unanimous, and then the English, Irish, and Scotch, would be a terror to all their enemies : if they disagree among themselves, the consequences will be dreadful. [*Do they ?*] As the aforesaid publication will soon appear, he shall say no more at present on this subject, but acquaint the public that it is his first performance, wrote at the desire of many gentlemen of known merit, and offered to the King's perusal.

Upon the 10th of December instant, Mr. Dun was tried [*not even examined*] at Mr. Wilkes's instance, for a breach of privilege, &c. and acquitted : he must here own his obligations to several members who spoke in his behalf ; although none of them will say he asked them to appear in his defence.—He is sorry that he had rea-

son to say some Gentlemen were over inquisitive ; who insisted that his servant should inform, and even threatened him, to tell them, what messages he sent him from the House of Commons.

The night this trial was ended, some of Mr. Wilkes's friends [*who were they?*] came to see Mr. Dun (as they themselves owned) from a principle of curiosity ; they wanted, they said, to know what was the reason for his animosity against Mr. Wilkes, and to see and take a copy of his card to Mr. Dun. In the first place, he informed them that he had no ill will at Mr. Wilkes, and let them copy the card, as they desired : he further said, that he intended to be his friend, and they saw his recompense. They then told Mr. Dun that the world considered this as a rash and frantic action, at least, that Mr. Wilkes's friends did ; but that now they were satisfied it was not. They shewed Mr. Dun several penknives, and wanted to know the size of the one he had in his waistcoat pocket on the 8th instant. He told them it was the size of

the least of those they produced ; but that he should not suspect *them* of assassination for bringing them into his apartments : at this they smiled. As the news-papers say [*his own account*] that Mr. Dun said he purchased the penknife first nine months ago, then a shorter space, and at last confessed he bought it at Chatham a fortnight before that time, he must explain this matter ? As he had three penknives purchased much about the times mentioned, but the one for common use, which was then in his pocket, he bought on the 1st of December last, from the shop of Nicholas Foster, near the corner of Grocer's-alley. He observed that there were several brave and sensible men (officers) in a worse condition than ever he (Mr. Dun) was, proceeding from the same malady ; that some cut their throats ; that others shot themselves through the body ; and that many were prevented from putting an end to their own lives, proceeding, as one would imagine, from the nature of the

climate; but he must observe, that sometimes people receive favours from those they least expect them, and are deceived by others they confide most in; this has been Mr. Dun's case in this affair: A man, professed the greatest friendship for him, subscribed to his book, said he was half a Scotchman, and was in company with him on Tuesday night the 8th instant, at the Parliament tavern, was, as he is informed, the principal occasion of this prosecution. God keep Mr. Dun from the company of half friends for the future; but let him add,

*Integer vitæ, scelerisque purus non eget  
Mauri*

*Jaculis nec Arcu, nec venenatis gravida  
Sagittis.*

*Fusce Pharetra.*

We shall take the liberty of adding to Mr. Dun's case, that it is the observation

of Machiavel, that in all cases, not only of affaffination, but of deep danger, no man should be employed, who is always, and entirely in his senses.

*When Mr. Wilkes was somewhat recovered of his wound he retired to Paris, where he was complimented by Mr. Martin (who had fled thither in consequence of their late duel) with the following card :*

Hotel de Luynes, Dec. 30, 1763.

‘ **M**R. Martin presents his compliments to Mr. Wilkes, and desires to know how he does, flattering himself, from Mr. Wilkes’s performance of so long a journey, at this season of the year, that his health is perfectly re-established.

‘ Mr. Martin cannot help taking this opportunity to assure Mr. Wilkes, that he had desired Mr. Bradshaw to deliver up Mr. Wilkes’s note, written to Mr. Martin on the 16th Nov. as it occurred to the latter that any imaginable use might be made of it to Mr. Wilkes’s prejudice, and before Mr. Martin had heard from Mr. Bradshaw that it was actually given up.

‘ Mr. Martin returns his thanks to Mr. Wilkes for his attention to Mr. Martin’s safety, by giving the early notice he did to Mr. Bradshaw, of his apprehending himself to be in danger.

‘ It is impossible for Mr. Martin to think of taking part in any affair of Mr. Wilkes that he may find depending in the House of Commons at his arrival in England. He proposes to set off from hence on his return home on Monday next, but believes he shall not set foot in London till those affairs are determined, to avoid even a colour of suspicion that he is capable of appearing against Mr. Wilkes after what hath so recently happened.’

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To which Mr. Wilkes returned the following answer.

Hotel de Saxe, Dec. 30. Friday.

‘ Mr. Wilkes’s compliments to Mr. Martin, and is much obliged by the favour of his note. Mr. Wilkes is going to pay his respects to Lord Hertford,

‘ and if Mr. Martin is disengaged, will  
 ‘ afterwards wait upon him for a quarter  
 ‘ of an hour, at the Hotel de Luynes.’

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Mr. Wilkes *sent the following letter to the  
 Speaker.*

Paris, Hotel de Saxe, Jan. 11. 1764.

‘ S I R,

‘ I CANNOT express the concern I am  
 ‘ under, from the impossibility I now find  
 ‘ of attending my duty in parliament on  
 ‘ the 19th of this month : I have suffered  
 ‘ very much from the tour I made here  
 ‘ in the holidays to see my daughter : my  
 ‘ wound is again become extremely pain-  
 ‘ ful, the parts are very much inflamed,  
 ‘ and a fever attends it. I inclose a cer-  
 ‘ tificate of one of the king’s physicians,  
 ‘ and a surgeon of the army, gentlemen  
 ‘ of eminence in their profession, who  
 ‘ think it absolutely necessary for me to  
 ‘ stay some time longer at Paris. I refer  
 ‘ to the certificate itself for the particu-  
 ‘ lars,

H



‘ The impatience I feel to justify my-  
 ‘ self to the house, from the groundless  
 ‘ and cruel attacks upon me, and the zeal  
 ‘ I hope ever to retain for the vindication  
 ‘ of the sacred rights of the commons of  
 ‘ Great Britain, and the privileges of  
 ‘ parliament, both of which have been  
 ‘ grossly violated in my person, had de-  
 ‘ termined me to set out for England on  
 ‘ Friday next, but I now find myself in-  
 ‘ capable of performing the journey. I  
 ‘ am therefore, Sir, under the necessity  
 ‘ of intreating you to submit my case to  
 ‘ the House, and I doubt not, from their  
 ‘ justice, a more distant day will be ap-  
 ‘ pointed, when it may be in my power  
 ‘ to attend the discussion of points very  
 ‘ important in themselves, and in which  
 ‘ I am very materially concerned.

‘ I would not, Sir, implore this of the  
 ‘ House, if I thought the delay could be  
 ‘ attended with any possible inconveni-  
 ‘ ence to the public ; and I beg to observe,  
 ‘ that I seized the first moment, which the  
 ‘ resolutions of Parliament gave me, to

“ enter my appearance to the informations  
“ filed against me in the King’s Bench.  
“ I am, with due respect and regard,

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

JOHN WILKES.

Right Honourable

Sir John Cust.

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“ Nous soussignes medecin consultant  
“ du Roi, ci devant medecin en chef des  
“ ses armees en Allemagne et en Espagne,  
“ et nous chirurgien consultant des armees,  
“ et chirurgien major du regiment des  
“ Gardes Francois, certifions que Mon-  
“ sieur Jean Wilkes est dans un etat que  
“ ne lui permet point, tant par raport a sa  
“ blessure qui n’est pas encore entierement  
“ cicatrisee, que par raport a la fièvre qui  
“ lui est survenue d’entreprendre la rout  
“ de Paris a Londres ; qu’il seroit a crain-  
“ dre un l’inflammation et le boursouffle-  
“ ment considerable arrives depuis peu de  
“ jours, qu’il ne se format une hernie a la  
“ quelle, il ne seroit point possible de re-

‘ medier, que pour prevenir cet accident,  
 ‘ dont il est menace et que mouvement  
 ‘ violent, tel que celui d’une chaise de  
 ‘ poste, et l’agitation de la mer ne man-  
 ‘ queroient pas de determiner, il est abso-  
 ‘ lument indispensable qu’il reste encore  
 ‘ quelque tems a Paris. En foi de quoi  
 ‘ nous lui avons delivre le present certi-  
 ‘ ficate. *A Paris, 11 Janvier 1764.*

NINNIN.

DUFOUARE,




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*Extract of a letter from Mr. Wilkes to Mr.  
 Coates, dated Paris, June 5, 1764.*

‘ THE two noble *Sweedish whigs*, of  
 ‘ whom you were so fond, did me the fa-  
 ‘ vour of dining here yesterday. I passed  
 ‘ the day very happily, though not so  
 ‘ joyously as that day twelve month, in  
 ‘ the midst of my worthy constituents at  
 ‘ Aylesbury, all of us in full chorus, to  
 ‘ the liberties of our country and the vir-  
 ‘ tues of our sovereign ; yet after the late  
 ‘ flagrant acts of despotic power in the  
 ‘ ministers, not forgetting either their

‘ wickedness or their insolence. \* *Joly’s*  
 ‘ *champaigne* was not necessary to inspire  
 ‘ the highest good-humour and gaiety on  
 ‘ so white, so auspicious a day as the *fourth*  
 ‘ of *June* ; the toast consecrated the wine,  
 ‘ and gave it the true flavour, though I  
 ‘ could not help lamenting my hard and  
 ‘ unmerited lot of being forced to give  
 ‘ such a toast out of my own dear coun-  
 ‘ try, and in a land where the standard  
 ‘ of *liberty* is not yet erected. With Miss  
 ‘ Wilkes’s help we made out tolerably  
 ‘ well GOD SAVE GREAT GEORGE  
 ‘ OUR KING ; and as the Duke of Ni-  
 ‘ vernois says in one of his letters——  
 ‘ *Nous avons toasté et chant fort gaiement,*  
 ‘ *et enfin nous avons été quatre bonnes heures*  
 ‘ *à table.* As I am a universal *whig*, I  
 ‘ could not avoid giving an additional  
 ‘ stanza, the poetry of which I endea-  
 ‘ voured to bring *down* as low as the rest  
 ‘ of the song, and I believe I succeeded ;  
 ‘ the thought was good that the name of

\* Wine Merchant at *Paris*.

• BRUNSWICK may ever be as propi-  
 • tious to the liberties of mankind as that  
 • of NASSAU; and our gracious sove-  
 • reign, through a long and glorious reign,  
 • *equally feared abroad and beloved at home,*  
 • may approve himself as steady a patron  
 • of the rights of Englishmen as his grand-  
 • father was. On the whole, it proved  
 • the most agreeable day I have passed  
 • since a few of us in April kept the anni-  
 • versary of CULLODEN, which a good  
 • many others seem to have a *memorandum*  
 • *to forget*, or at least to neglect very  
 • shamefully.

• Lord Hertford gave yesterday a grand  
 • dinner to all the *English* here, except one,  
 • and to the true Irish whigs; nor like a  
 • good courtier did he omit the new con-  
 • verts, the *Scots*; he did not, however, ob-  
 • serve the distinction which is so much in  
 • fashion on your side the water, for the  
 • friends of the *Hanover* family, were re-  
 • ceived at least as well as their known  
 • enemies. My lot is particular and droll  
 • enough: I am the single *Englishman* not

' invited, on the only day I can at *Paris*  
 ' shew my attachment to my sovereign, as  
 ' if I was disaffected to the present esta-  
 ' blishment, and yet I am frequently and  
 ' grossly abused by a ridiculous fellow at  
 ' *Bouillon*, because I am known to hate  
 ' the other family; and his master, the  
 ' *duke*, married the sister of the preten-  
 ' der's wife, a princess of *Poland*, of the  
 ' house of *Sobieski*. This scribbler is one  
 ' *Rousseau*, who by a wretched *journal* does  
 ' all he can twice a month to degrade a  
 ' name made illustrious by one of the best  
 ' *French* poets, and by the great philoso-  
 ' pher, though *in these times* no longer  
 ' the citizen of *Geneva*. He lays at my  
 ' door the North Britons against the *Stu-*  
 ' *arts*, and their *dear friends* in the north  
 ' of our island.—You may believe me,  
 ' when I assure you it was not the slightest  
 ' mortification to me, that I did not re-  
 ' ceive an invitation. When I was asked,  
 ' how it could happen that so staunch a  
 ' *whig* as Mr. Wilkes, was not invited, on  
 ' the 4th of *June*, I laughed like the old

‘ *Roman, I had rather you should ask why I*  
 ‘ *was NOT, than why I WAS invited ;*  
 ‘ perhaps it should have been asked, why  
 ‘ some others *were* invited. The list of the  
 ‘ company of *Macs and Sawneys*, NOT in  
 ‘ *the French* service would divert you : I  
 ‘ wish some of our neighbours from the  
 ‘ other side of the Tweed may not keep  
 ‘ the *twenty-first* with more real devotion  
 ‘ than they did the *fourth*. With respect  
 ‘ to external rites they were exemplary, as  
 ‘ all new converts are ; and I believe you  
 ‘ find them in England good *occasional*  
 ‘ *conformists*, though I shall ever imagine  
 ‘ that it depends on contingencies how  
 ‘ long they will continue such. To say  
 ‘ the truth, I passed the day much more  
 ‘ to my satisfaction than I should have  
 ‘ done in a set of mixed or a suspicious  
 ‘ company, a fullsome dull dinner, two  
 ‘ hours of mighty grave conversation, to  
 ‘ be purchased in all civility by six more  
 ‘ of PHARA, which I detest as well as  
 ‘ every other kind of gaming. As to the  
 ‘ Embassador, I have never had the least

‘ connection with him, nor indeed with  
 ‘ it; nor at this time with his *Scottish* Se-  
 ‘ cretary, nor at any time with his *Scottish*  
 ‘ chaplain, because an ambassador gene-  
 ‘ rally owes his very nomination to mini-  
 ‘ sterial influence, and is almost of course  
 ‘ (*though this does not extend through his*  
 ‘ *family*) under the direction of the mini-  
 ‘ sters, or perhaps as to the present case,  
 ‘ in all propriety we ought to say, of the  
 ‘ *minister*, who, *behind and between the*  
 ‘ *curtains*, still governs our island. I have  
 ‘ never been presented at court, because  
 ‘ an Englishman should be presented by  
 ‘ the English ambassador; and I will not  
 ‘ ask any favour of Lord *Hertford* in the  
 ‘ present state of public affairs; though  
 ‘ as a private nobleman, I should be ambi-  
 ‘ tious to merit, and most fortunate to  
 ‘ obtain, his friendship, as well as lord  
 ‘ *Beauchamp’s*, from their real sterling  
 ‘ sense, great intrinsic worth, and what  
 ‘ sets off the whole, their amiable man-  
 ‘ ners. I have the protection of the laws,  
 ‘ which I never offend; I am at *Paris* like



' any other foreigner, who has no favour  
 ' to ask, nor need seek any other security.  
 ' The elege, which the noblest of poets \*  
 ' gives me, that

I neither court the smile, nor dread the  
 frown of kings,

' is as exact a truth here as you know it  
 ' to have been while I was at home. The  
 ' small circle in which I now walk, will,  
 ' however, bear testimony to the just tri-  
 ' bute of gratitude I pay to the humane  
 ' virtues of a prince, under whose mild  
 ' and gentle government I have met with  
 ' that protection which an innocent man  
 ' has a right to expect, but could not find  
 ' in his own country, under his own  
 ' prince. Yet let me do justice, and carry  
 ' my complaints to the source from whence  
 ' they spring, to the base contrivances of  
 ' ministers exceedingly wicked and cor-  
 ' rupt, and besides stung to the quick,  
 ' who had obtained a most unhappy af-  
 ' fectation over the mind of their sove-  
 ' reign, and to secure themselves, have

\* Churchill.

' made their most odious measures pass  
 ' for his, that the enormous load of their  
 ' guilt, may be thrown from themselves  
 ' upon him; a practice not new, but of  
 ' which every reign of the *Stuarts*, fur-  
 ' nishes examples. I hope soon to send  
 ' you something, *quod et hunc in annum*  
 ' *vivat et plures*. My large work opens  
 ' with the general idea of political liberty;  
 ' then proceeds to examine the sentiments  
 ' of the European nations on this head, as  
 ' distinguished from the almost universal  
 ' gross despotism of the rest of the world.  
 ' The third part is a critique on the various  
 ' governments of Europe. The fourth  
 ' and last is entirely on the English con-  
 ' stitution, the various changes it has un-  
 ' dergone, the improvements made in it  
 ' by the glorious revolution, and the no-  
 ' less happy than timely accession of the  
 ' house of *Brunswick*. There are a few  
 ' hints of some remedies to the defects  
 ' still subsisting in this noble; and if my  
 ' prayers are heard, this eternal fabric.  
 ' A large *appendix* contains, I hope a full

‘ justification of Mr. Wilkes, upon constitutional grounds : a variety of characters are drawn from the life, which if I mistake not, will entertain you ; and I believe they are not *skeletons*, though I hope the originals will be so before the book is published.’

I am your’s, &c.

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*A letter to the worthy Electors of the borough of Aylesbury, in the county of Bucks.*

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ THE very honourable, unanimous, and repeated marks of esteem, you conferred on me, by committing to my trust your liberty, safety, property, and all those glorious privileges, which are your birth-right as Englishmen, entitle you to my warmest thanks, and to the highest tribute of gratitude my heart can pay. Yet in the peculiar circumstances of my case I think that I ought not at present to rest contented with thanking you. I have always found a true pleasure in submitting

to you my parliamentary conduct. It is now more particularly my duty, and when I reflect on the real importance and interesting nature of those great events, in which, as your representative, I have been more immediately concern'd, I am exceedingly anxious not barely to justify myself, but to obtain the sanction of your approbation. It has ever been my ambition to approve myself worthy of the choice you have more than once made of me as your deputy to the great council of the nation, with an unanimity equally honourable and endearing. The consciousness of having faithfully discharged my trust, of having acted an upright and steady part in Parliament, as well as in the most arduous circumstances, makes me dare to hope, that you will continue to me what I most value, the good opinion and friendship of my worthy constituents. Having the happiness of being born in a country, where the name of *vassal* is unknown, where MAGNA CHARTA is the inheritance of the subject, I have endeavoured to support and merit

those privileges, to which my birth gave me the clearest right. Secure as I am of fully justifying my conduct, cou'd I persuade myself, that I have acted up to the sacred ideas of liberty, which warm the hearts, and inspire the actions of my countrymen, I shou'd not, under all the variety of the most unjust and cruel persecutions, be quite unhappy.

“ The various charges brought against me may be reduced to two heads. The one is of a public, the other of a private nature. The first is grounded on the political paper of the *North Briton*, No. 45: the other respects a small part of a ludicrous poem, which was stolen out of my house. The two accusations are only so far connected, that I am convinc'd there is not a man in England, who believes that if the *first* had not appeared, the *second* wou'd ever have been call'd in question.

“ The *Majority* in the *House of Commons* on the 15th of November 1763, *Resolved*, *That the Paper, intituled, THE*

NORTH BRITON, No. 45, is a FALSE, SCANDALOUS, and SEDITIOUS LIBEL; containing Expressions of the most unexampled Insolence and Contumely towards his Majesty, the grossest Aspersions upon both Houses of Parliament, and the most audacious Defiance of the Authority of the whole Legislature, and most manifestly tending to alienate the Affections of the People from his Majesty, to withdraw them from their Obedience to the Laws of the Realm, and to excite them to traiterous Insurrections against His Majesty's Government. These are the words of the Resolution. I mean to examine them with some accuracy.

“ The first charge is, that *The North Briton*, No. 45, is a FALSE Libel. The Resolution was mov'd by Lord North; yet in a tedious speech he did not attempt to dispute the *veracity* of any one paragraph in the whole paper. I was in my place during that debate, and took notice to the House that his Lordship had not said a word to prove the FALSITY of any one sentence, but I could obtain no satisfac-

tion, not even a reply, on that head. On my trial before Lord *Mansfield*, the word FALSE was omitted in the indictment, because I suppose the Court of *King's Bench* knew that I wou'd prove publicly *on oath in that court*, by the highest authorities, that every word in it was TRUE. The word FALSE is not to be found among the various epithets applied to this Paper in either of the Warrants issued by Lord *Halifax*. I am bold to declare, upon the most careful perusal of this paper, that there is not any one particular advanc'd, which is not founded on fact, and that every line in it is strictly and scrupulously conformable to *truth*. I will not compliment the present profligate *Majority* in the *House of Commons* so far as to say, they were so well inform'd, that they knew the exact truth of *every* assertion in that paper. One particular however came within their knowledge, the means by which it is hinted that the ENTIRE APPROBATION OF PARLIAMENT, even of the *Preliminary Articles* of the late inglorious Peace, was obtain'd, and the pre-

vious step to the obtaining that ENTIRE APPROBATION, the large debt contracted on the *Civil List*. They knew this assertion was extremely TRUE, and I am as ready to own that it was extremely SCANDALOUS.

“ The second charge of SCANDALOUS must then be admitted in its full extent, still keeping in our view that it is TRUE. But to whom is it SCANDALOUS? To the *Majority*, who have sacrific'd the interests of the nation by giving the ENTIRE APPROBATION OF PARLIAMENT, of which so much parade is made in the *Speech*, to an act, which ought to have been follow'd by an impeachment—To the Minister, who made the late ignominious *Peace*, and in the very first year of it impos'd on us an intolerable *Excise*—To the worst of vipers in our bosom, to the *Tories*, who have never failed to support his unconstitutional measures, who have made us almost forget the infamy of their ancestors at *Utrecht*, by the greater sacrifices of the *Peace of Paris*. These are the objects of satire of a Paper,



which deserved indeed the highest resentment of the *Majority*, because it had proclaim'd their disgrace, their *scandal*, thro' all Europe. It was very natural for these men no longer to suffer the *supposed* author to sit among them, and I shou'd have gloried in my *expulsion*, if it had not dissolv'd a political connection with my friends at *Aylesbury*, which did me real honour.

“ Another charge is, that the paper is a *SEDITIONOUS libel, tending to withdraw the people from their Obedience to the Laws of the Realm, and to excite them to TRAITEROUS insurrections against His Majesty's Government*. By the first Warrant, under which I was apprehended, *The North Briton*, No. 45, was denominated a *TREASONABLE Paper*. In the second, by which I was committed to the Tower, *that Word* too was omitted, so that the greatest enemies of this paper seem to give up its being either *FALSE* or *TREASONABLE*. Now the charge is varied by the *Majority* in the *House of Commons*, with all the little quib-

bling of attorney's. The paper is not TREASONABLE, but *it tends to excite TRAITEROUS insurrections*. It is remarkable that the epithet TRAITEROUS is here given to *insurrection*, as the *supposed* consequence of a *supposed* libel; whereas the *Scots*, who appeared in open rebellion so lately as 1745, were in the weekly writings against the *North Briton*, published under the patronage of the *Scottish Minister*, and *paid for by him out of the public treasure*, only term'd *insurgents, who defeated regular forces*. Yet in fact no *insurrection of any kind* ever did, or cou'd, follow from this publication, even in those parts of the kingdom so lately subjected to all the insolence and cruelty of the most despicable of our species, the mean, petty *Exciseman*. This is the strongest case, which can possibly be put. The EXCISE is the most abhorred monster, which ever sprung from arbitrary power, and the new mode of it is spoken of through this paper as the greatest grievance on the subject; yet even in this case, obedience to the laws and all lawful authority is strictly en-

join'd, and no opposition, but what is consistent with the *laws* and the *constitution*, is allow'd. The words are very temperate, cautious and well guarded. *Every LEGAL attempt of a contrary tendency to the spirit of concord will be deem'd a justifiable resistance, warranted by the spirit of the English constitution.* Is this withdrawing the people from their obedience to the LAWS of the realm? Is resistance recommended, but expressly only so far as it is strictly LEGAL? Let the impartial public determine, whether this is the language of SEDITION, or can have the least tendency to excite TRAITEROUS insurrections, or whether the House of Commons have not made a false and groundless charge.

The general charge that *The North Briton*, No. 45, is a LIBEL, scarcely deserves an answer, because the term is vague, and still remains undefin'd by our law. Every man applies it to what he dislikes. A spirited *satire* will be deem'd a *libel* by a wicked Minister, and by a corrupt judge, who feel, or who dread the lash. In my

opinion the rankest *libel* of modern times is the *false* and tulsome *Address* of the *Majority* in this *House of Commons* on the *Preliminary Articles*. They said that they had consider'd them with their *best attention*, they express'd the *strongest sentiments of gratitude*, they gave their *bearty applause*, they declar'd the *Peace* would be *no less honourable than profitable, solid, and, in all human probability, permanent*. Were the *House of Commons* serious in this *Address*, which was drawn up and presented, even before any one of the gross blunders in the *Preliminaries* had been amended? If they were, the body of the people judg'd better, and did not hesitate to give their clear opinion, that the glories of the war were sacrific'd by an *inadequate and insecure PEACE*, which cou'd not fail of soon retrieving the affairs of *France*. Time has already prov'd that the nation judg'd right, and that the *PEACE* is in almost every part *infamous and rotten*, contrary to the vain boast in the *Minister's Speech* at the *beginning* of the same session, *the utmost care has been taken*

to remove all occasions of future disputes between my subjects and those of France and Spain, and thereby to add security and permanency to the blessings of PEACE: a declaration not believ'd by the nation at the time it was made, and since, from a variety of facts, known not to be founded on *truth*. The *North Briton* did not suffer the public to be misled. He acknowledg'd no *privileg'd vehicle of fallacy*. He consider'd the *liberty of the press* as the bulwark of all our liberties, as instituted to open the eyes of the people, and he seems to have thought it the duty of a political writer to follow *truth* where ever it leads. In his behalf I wou'd ask even *Lord Mansfield*, can TRUTH be a LIBEL? Is it so in the *King's Bench*? Tho' it has always found a cold and unwelcome reception from his Lordship, tho' it has thro' life prov'd much more his enemy than his friend, yet surely he has not been us'd to treat it as a *libel*. I do not know what the doctrine of the *King's Bench* now is, but I am sure that it will be a satisfactory answer to the honest part of

mankind, who follow the dictates of sound sense, not the jargon of Law, nor the court flattery of venal Parliaments, that *The North Briton*, No. 45, cannot be a LIBEL, because it does not in any one line deviate from truth.

This unlucky paper is likewise said to contain *expressions of the most unexampled insolence and contumely towards his Majesty, most manifestly tending to alienate the Affections of the People from His Majesty*, and by the hirelings of the Ministry it is always in private charg'd with PERSONAL disrespect to the King. It is however most certain that not a single word *personally* disrespectful to his Majesty is to be found in any part of it. On the contrary, the sovereign is mention'd not only in terms of decency, but with that regard and reverence, which is due from a good subject to a good King—a Prince of so many great and amiable qualities, whom England truly reveres—the personal character of our present amiable Sovereign makes us easy and happy that so great a power is lodged in such hands. Are these

the expressions of the most unexampled insolence and contumely towards his Majesty, which the Majority in this House of Commons have declar'd that it contains? Are these expressions most manifestly tending to alienate the Affections of the People from His Majesty? The Majority, who cou'd vote this, seem equally superior to any regard for truth, or modest fear of detection. The author of that paper, so far from making any *personal* attack on his Sovereign, has even vindicated him *personally* from some of the late measures, which were so severely censur'd by the judicious and unbiass'd Public. He exclaims with an honest indignation, *what a shame was it to see the security of this country, in point of military force, complimented away, CONTRARY TO THE OPINION OF ROYALTY ITSELF, and sacrificed to the prejudices, and to the ignorance of a set of people, the most unfit from every consideration to be consulted on a matter relative to the security of the House of Hanover?* When the *Speech* is mention'd, when the various absurdities, and even

*fallacies* of it, are held out to the nation, it is always call'd, in the language of Parliament, and of the constitution, the *Minister's Speech*, and the author declares that he doubts, *whether the imposition is greater on the sovereign, or on the nation*: so tender has he been of the honour of his Prince, so zealous in his vindication. The Minister is indeed every where treated with the contempt and indignation he has merited, but he is ever carefully distinguish'd from the sovereign. Every kingdom in the world has in it's turn found occasion to lament that Princes of the best intentions have been deceiv'd and misled by wicked and designing *Ministers* and *Favourites*. It has likewise in most countries been the fate of the few daring patriots, who have honestly endeavour'd to *undecieve* their sovereign, to feel the heaviest marks of his displeasure. It is however I think rather wonderful *among us, even in these times*, that a paper, which contains the most dutiful expressions of regard to his Majesty, should be treated with such unusual seve-



verity, and yet that so many other publications of the same date, full of the most deadly venom, shou'd pass totally unregarded. Some of these papers contain'd the most opprobrious reflections on that true patron of liberty, the *late King*, whose memory is embalm'd with the tears of *Englishmen*, while his ashes are rudely trampled upon by others, whom his godlike attribute of mercy had pardon'd the crime of unprovok'd rebellion. Others were full of the most indecent abuse on our great Protestant Ally, the *King of Prussia*, on the near relation of his present Majesty, who has merited so highly of the nation by fixing the crown in the House of Hanover, on the staunchest friends of freedom, the *City of London*, and on the first characters among us. Yet all these papers have pass'd uncensur'd by Ministers, Secretaries, and by the two *Houses of Parliament*.

There only remains one other charge, that the *North Briton*, No. 45, contains *the grossest aspersions upon both Houses of Parliament, and the most audacious defiance of*

*the AUTHORITY of the whole Legislature.* It is to be lamented that the *Majority* of either House of Parliament shou'd ever lay the just ground of any *aspiration*, or fall into general contempt with the people. We have seen their actions, and we know the mercenary motives of them. When the *grossest aspirations* are complained of, the question is, *have they been merited? Are they well founded?* It is in vain they talk of their *authority*. It is departed from them. *Authority*, which is founded on esteem and reverence, and is the constant attendant only of those, who are believ'd to be good and virtuous, has long ago left them; but I must own their *power* still remains. We have seen to what unjustifiable lengths it has been carried, and a man, who is rash enough to make an impotent and unavailing attack upon it, will soon find himself the unpitied victim. All thinking men are full of apprehensions at the approach of their meeting, and the nation impatiently expects the allotted term of resuming a power they have so shame-

fully abus'd, by setting aside those, who have ignominiously betray'd their trust, and have made the noblest blood of our heroes be spilt almost in vain. Under the *arbitrary Stuarts*, when our more than *Roman* Senates dar'd to bring *truth* to the foot of the throne, and made the trembling tyrant obey her sacred voice, the nation was in love with Parliaments, because they were the steady friends of liberty, and never met but in favour of the subject to redress real grievances. Now we are alarm'd at every approaching *session*, because we know that a corrupt *Majority* only assemble to make their own terms with the Minister, to load their fellow subjects with the most partial taxes, in order to pay the amazing number of useless places and pensions, created only to prevent their *mutiny or desertion*, or to surrender to the crown those *privileges* of Parliament, which were extorted from former *prerogative princes* for the safety of the people, and I fear they meet to forge fetters for themselves and their posterity.

I have thus, Gentlemen, gone thro' all the objections made against this paper, which is certainly innocent, perhaps meritorious, only to shew the extreme injustice of the treatment I experienc'd, as the *supposed* author. The most cruel orders were given by the deceas'd secretary of state, *to drag me out of my bed at midnight*. A good deal of humanity, and some share of timidity, prevented the execution of such ruffian-like commands. I was made a prisoner in my own house by several of the King's messengers, who only produc'd a *General Warrant* issued without oath, neither naming, nor describing me. I therefore refus'd to obey a warrant, which I knew to be illegal. I was however by violence carried before the Earls of *Egremont* and *Halifax*, who thought it worth their while to ask me a tolerable number of plain questions, to not one of which I thought it worth my while to give a plain answer. It is no small satisfaction to me now to know, that I have not a friend in the world, who wishes a single word *unsaid*.

by me in the critical moment of that examination. I inform'd their Lordships of the orders actually given by the *Court of Common Pleas* for my *Habeas Corpus*, notwithstanding which I was committed to the Tower, the custody of me shifted into other hands, and that act for the liberty of the subject eluded. Altho' the offense of which I stood accus'd, was undoubtedly *bailable*, yet for three days every person was refus'd admittance to me, and the Governor was oblig'd to treat me in a manner very different from the great humanity of his nature, for he had receiv'd orders to consider me as a *close* prisoner. I rejoice that I can say, I am the only instance of such rigorous treatment since the accession of the mild House of *Brunswick*, altho' the Tower has twice been crouded even with rebels from the Northern parts of the Island; and therefore I shall continue to regret the wretched and cowardly policy, the indecent partiality, and even injustice, of conferring on *Scotsmen* ALL the governments of the few conquests not

tamely given up by the SCOTTISH *Minister*, conquests won by the valour of the united forces of *England, Scotland and Ireland*. While I suffer'd this harsh confinement, my house in *Great George Street* was plunder'd, all my papers were seiz'd, and some of a very nice and delicate nature, not bearing the most distant relation to the affairs of government, were divulg'd, as if Administration were determin'd to shew, that men, who had violated *public justice*, were incapable of *private honour*.

“ Two days previous to my being heard before a court of Justice, I had the grief to find that my enemies had prevail'd on his Majesty to shew me a public mark of his displeasure, by superseding me as *Colonel* of the Regiment of my own county, without any complaint against me, which cou'd not but give such a step the very unconstitutional appearance of *influencing* or *intimidating* my judges. When I was brought before the court of *Common Pleas*, I pleaded the cause of *universal liberty*. It was not the cause of Peers and Gentlemen.

only, but of *all the middling and inferior class of people, who stand most in need of protection*, which I observ'd was on that day the great question before the court. I was discharg'd from imprisonment by the unanimous sentence of my judges, without giving any bail or security. On the first day of the meeting of Parliament, I humbly submitted my grievances to the *House of Commons*, as they were chosen to be the guardians of the liberties of the people against the despotism of ministers. I likewise voluntarily enter'd my appearance to the actions brought at law against me, as soon as I knew the determination of the *Majority*, that all the irregularities against me shou'd be justified, and that no privilege shou'd be allow'd *in my case*, even as to the mode of proceeding, which was the most harsh the rancour of party cou'd devise.

“ The first charge exhibited against me was for being the *author* of the *North Briton*, No. 45, and I was expell'd the *House of Commons* on that charge, after a *loose examination* at their bar of *witnesses without* ..

*oath*. The judicial proceedings against me, as the *supposed author*, were however drop'd, and I was afterwards try'd in the *King's Bench* only for the *republishing* of it. If the charge against me as *author* was just, and cou'd be supported on *oath*, why was I not tried at law on that charge? If the charge was unjust, and cou'd not be supported on *oath*, why was I *expell'd*? If the *republishing* is a crime, it was publicly committed by the printers of several newspapers, who still remain unnotic'd, altho' their names appear to their several papers. This is surely a glaring proof of the greatest partiality. My personal enemy, *Lord Mansfield*, chose to try both the causes against me, that he might in the most dastardly manner, under the colour of law, avenge the attack made on those known political principles of his, so inconsistent with the glorious *Revolution*, on the rooted attachment of himself and his nearest relations to the *Stuart* family, on his partiality in the seat of justice, &c. &c. which seem to have been favourite topics



in the *North Briton*, and other political papers, of which his Lordship did me the honour to name me as the author. This had long rankled in his heart, and now the fairest opportunity of revenge presented itself. Having carefully studied the records, and finding that they did not insure the certainty he wish'd of my conviction, on the evening preceding the trials, he sent for my *solicitor* to HIS OWN HOUSE, and desir'd him to consent to the alterations his Lordship propos'd in both the causes, that of the *North Briton*, No. 45, and of the *Essay on Woman*. The *Chief Justice* sunk into the crafty *attorney*, and made himself a party against the person accus'd before him as judge, when he ought to have presum'd me innocent. My *solicitor* refus'd, and against his consent the records were there materially alter'd by his Lordship's express orders, so that I was tried on two new charges, very different from those I had answer'd. This is, I believe, the most daring violation of the rights of *Englishmen*, which has been com-

mitted by any judge since the time of *Jeffries*; yet this arbitrary *Scottish Chief Justice* still remains unimpeach'd—except in the hearts of the whole nation. Several of the *Jury* were by counter-notice, sign'd *Summoning Officer*, prevented from attending on the day appointed for the trial, while others had not only private notice given them of the real day, but likewise instructions for their behaviour. To crown the whole, *Lord Mansfield* in his charge *tortur'd both the law and the fact so grossly*, that the audience were shock'd no less at the indecency than at the partiality of his conduct. I was during all this time very dangerously ill with my daughter at Paris, absolutely incapable of making any personal defence, and indeed totally ignorant of the two new questions, on which I was to be tried.

“ The *Majority* in the *House of Commons* had in this interval grown so impatient for revenge, that they wou'd not wait to see, if I shou'd be intangled in the nice meshes of the curious *Mansfield* net, which

was to be spread for me. They voted my *expulsion*, while I was confined to my bed at Paris, altho' I had sent to their *Speaker* the most authentic proof of my absolute inability to attend their summons, and had only desir'd a short delay. Humanity pleaded my cause in vain. The corrupt and canker'd hearts of those men, which had been shut against justice, were not open to pity. They were steel'd against compassion, but I am sure they will feel remorse.

“ I now proceed to the other charge brought against me, which respects an idle poem, call'd an *ESSAY ON WOMAN*, and a few other detach'd verses. If so much had not been said on this subject, I shou'd be superior to entering upon any justification of myself, because I will always maintain the right of private opinion in it's fullest extent, when it is not follow'd by giving any open, public offence to any establishment, or indeed to any individual. The crime commences from thence, and the magistrate has a right to

interpose, and even to punish outrageous and indecent attacks on what any community has decreed to be sacred. Not only the rules of good breeding, but the laws of society, are then infring'd. In my own closet I had a right to examine, and even to try by the keen edge of ridicule, any opinions I pleas'd. If I have laugh'd pretty freely at the glaring absurdities of the most monstrous *creed*, which was ever attempted to be impos'd on the credulity of christians, a creed which our great *Tillotson* wish'd THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND WAS FAIRLY RID OF, it was in private I laugh'd. I am not the first good protestant, who has amus'd himself with the egregious nonsense, and silly conceits, of that strange, perplex'd and perplexing mortal, that *saint* of more admirable swallow and more happy digestion than any of the tribe, *Athanasius*. I gave however no offence to any one individual of the community. The fact is, that after the affair of the NORTH BRITON, the government brib'd one of my servants to *steal* a part of

the *ESSAY ON WOMAN*, and the other pieces, out of my house. Not quite a *fourth* part of the volume had been printed at my own private press. The work had been discontinued for several months, before I had the least knowledge of the theft. Of that *fourth* part only twelve copies were work'd off, and I never gave one of those copies to any friend. In this infamous manner did government get possession of this new subject of accusation, and, except in the case of *Algernon Sydney*, of this new species of crime; for a *Stuart* only cou'd make the refinement in tyranny of ransacking and robbing the recesses of closets and studies in order to convert *private amusements* into *state crimes*. After the servant had been brib'd to commit the theft in his master's house, the most abandon'd man of the age, who in this *virtuous* reign had risen to be secretary of state, was brib'd to make a complaint to the *House of Lords* that I had PUBLISH'D an infamous *Poem*, which no man there had ever seen. It was read before that great assembly of

*grave lords and pious prelates, excellent judges of wit and poetry, and was order'd to lie on the table, for the Clerks of the House to copy, and to PUBLISH thro' the nation.*

The whole of this proceeding was I own a public insult on order and decency, but it was committed by the *House of Lords*, not by the accus'd member of the House of Commons. The neat, prim, smirking *Chaplain* of that babe of grace, that *gude cheeld* of the prudish *kirk* of Scotland, the *Earle of March*, was highly offended at my having made an *essay on woman*. His nature cou'd not forgive me that INEFFABLE crime, and *his own conduct* did not afford me the shadow of an apology. In great wrath he drew his grey goose quill against me. The *pious peer* caught the alarm, and they both pour'd forth most woful lamentations, their tender hearts overwhelm'd with *grief*, or as the *Chaplain*, who held the pen, said, with GRIEFS OF GRIEFS. He proceeded to make very unfair extracts, and afterwards to *be-note* them in the foulest manner. The most vile blasphemies were

forg'd, and publish'd as part of a work, which in reality contain'd nothing but fair ridicule on some doctrines I cou'd not believe, mock panegyric flowing from mere envy, which sicken'd at the *superior parts and abilities*, as well as *wondrous deeds* of a man I cou'd not love, a few portraits drawn from warm life, with the too high colouring of a youthful fancy, and two or three descriptions, perhaps too luscious, which tho' NATURE and WOMAN might pardon, a *Kidgell* and a *Mansfield* cou'd not fail to condemn.

“ I have now, Gentlemen, gone thro' all the objections, which have been made to my conduct in a *public* capacity. My enemies finding that I was invulnerable, where they pointed their most envenom'd darts, afterwards attempted to assassinate my private character, and propagated an infinite variety of groundless calumnies against me. I have generally treated these with the contempt they deserv'd, from the certainty that all who knew me, wou'd know that I was incapable of the things

laid to my charge. A few falsehoods advanced with more boldness than the rest, I was at the pains to refute. The *Winchester* story in particular, because it respected *Lord Bute's* own son, and had been usher'd to the public with the greatest parade, as well as with all the impudence of malice, and rage of party, I disprov'd so fully, that I am sure not the least shadow of a doubt remain'd in any man's mind as to my entire innocence of that most illiberal charge. I have liv'd so long among you, Gentlemen, that I will rest every thing respecting me as a private man to the testimony, which the experience of so many years authorizes you to give, well knowing that true candour always weighs in the same balance faults and virtues. The shades in private life are darken'd by an enemy, but scarcely seen by a friend. Besides it is not given to every man to be as pious as *Lord Sandwich*, or as chaste, in and out of the marriage bed, in all thought, word, and deed, as the *Bishop of Gloucester*.



“ A few other particulars, Gentlemen, deserve to be mention'd, that you may have before you the whole of my conduct in these interesting affairs. Immediately after the late flagrant breach of the laws, I thought it my duty to the community to commence actions against all the persons guilty. I despis'd the meanness of attacking only agents and deputies. I endeavour'd to bring to the jurisdiction of the law, the *principals*, the first and great offenders, the *two secretaries of state*. I blush for my country, when I add that tho' I have employ'd the ablest gentlemen of the profession, they have hitherto found it impossible even to force an appearance. Lord *Egremont* died, braving the justice of his country. Lord *Halifax* lives, perhaps to triumph over it, and to give the example to future secretaries of committing the grossest violation of the rights of the Commons with impunity. The judicial proceeding at my suit commenc'd in the beginning of May twelvemonth, and now at the end of October in the present year, his Lordship has

not enter'd any appearance, seeking shelter all the winter under *Privilege*, all the summer under the *chicane of law*. The *little offenders* indeed have not escap'd. Several *honest juries* have mark'd them with ignominy, and their guilt has been follow'd with legal punishment. But what is of infinitely greater importance to the nation, we have heard from the Bench, that GENERAL WARRANTS ARE ABSOLUTELY ILLEGAL. Such a declaration is now become in the highest degree interesting to the subject, because the *Majority* in this *courtly House of Commons* refus'd, the very last winter, to come to any resolution in favour of the rights of their fellow subjects. We owe it likewise to the most upright, independent, and intrepid *Chief Justice* of the *Court of Common Pleas*, that in the action against the under Secretary of state, Mr. *Wood*, THE SEIZURE OF PAPERS, except in cases of High Treason, has been declar'd ILLEGAL.

When I reflect on these two most important determinations in favour of *liberty*,

the best cause, and the noblest stake, for which men can contend, I congratulate my free-born countrymen, and am full of gratitude that heaven inspir'd me with a firmness and fortitude equal to the conduct of so arduous a business. Under all the wanton cruelties of usurp'd and abus'd power, the goodness of the cause supported me, and I never lost sight of the great object, which I had from the first in my view, the preservation of the rights and privileges of every *Englishman*. I glory in the name, and will never forget the duties resulting from it. Tho' I am driven into exile from my dear country, I shall never cease to love and reverence it's constitution, while it remains free. It will continue my first ambition to approve myself a faithful son of *England*, and I shall always be ready to give my life a willing sacrifice to my native country, and to what it holds most dear, the security of our invaluable liberties. While I live, I shall enjoy the satisfaction of thinking that I have not liv'd in vain, that the present

age has borne the noblest testimony to me, and that my name will pass with honour to posterity, for the upright and disinterested part I have acted, and for my unwearied endeavours *to protect and secure the persons, houses, and papers, of my fellow-subjects from arbitrary visits and seizures.*

I am, GENTLEMEN,

with much regard and affection,

your most obliged, and

obedient humble servant,

JOHN WILKES.

*Paris, Oct. 22, 1764.*

*Dedication prefixed to the Fall of MORTEMER.*  
*A TRAGEDY.*

*To the Right Honourable JOHN Earl of BUTE, Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, first Commissioner of the Treasury in England, one of the sixteen Representatives of the Peers of Scotland, one of His Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, and Knight of the most noble English Order of the Garter.*

MY LORD,

**M**ANY and various motives have concurred to give a peculiar propriety to the fond wish I had formed of making this humble offering to the Shrine of BUTE. I have felt an honest indignation at all the invidious and odious applications of the story of ROGER MORTIMER. I absolutely disclaim the most distant allusion, and I purposely dedicate *this Play* to your Lordship, because history does not furnish a more striking contrast, than there is between the two Ministers in the Reigns of *Edward the Third*, and of *George the*

*Third.* The former Prince was held in the most absolute slavery by his Mother and her Minister, the first Nobles of England were excluded from the King's Councils, and the Minion disposed of all places of profit and trust. The King's Uncles did not retain the shadow of power and authority, but were treated with insult, and the whole Royal Family was depressed, and forced to depend on the caprice of an insolent favourite. The young King had been victorious over the Scots, who were in *that* reign our cruel enemies, but are happily in *this* our dearest friends. On every favourable opportunity, either by the distractions in the public councils during a minority, or by the absence of the national troops, they had ravaged ENGLAND with fire and sword. *Edward* might have compelled them to accept of any terms, but ROGER MORTIMER, from personal motives of his own power and ambition, hastily concluded an ignominious Peace, by which he sacrificed all the glories of a successful War. With the highest

rapture I now look back to that disgraceful æra, and I exult when I compare it with the halcyon days of *George the Third*. This excellent Prince is held in no kind of captivity. All his Nobles have free access to him. The throne is not now besieged. Court favour, not confined to one partial stream, flows in a variety of different channels, enriching *this* whole country. There is now the most perfect union among all the branches of the Royal Family. No Court Minion now finds it necessary, for the preservation of his own omnipotence, by the vilest insinuations to divide either the Royal, or any noble families. The King's Uncle is now treated with that mark'd distinction which his singular merit is entitled to, both from the nation, and the Throne, established by his valour in extinguishing a foul rebellion, which burst upon us from it's *native North*, and almost overspread the Land. Our Sovereign is conscious that he owes more to our *great deliverer* than any Prince in Europe owes to any subject; and he

sets a noble example of gratitude to Princes, *que les Rôis, ces illustres ingrats, Sont assez malheureux pour ne connoître pas.* No favourite now has trampled upon the most respectable of the *English* Nobility, and driven them from their Sovereign's Councils. No discord now rages in the kingdom, but every tongue blesses the Minister who has in so many ways endeared himself no less to the Nobility than to the whole body of the People. *Primores populi arripuit, populumque tributim.* To compleat the Contrast, we have now an *advantageous*, a *glorious* Peace, fully adequate to all the *successes*, to all the *glories* of the War.

The internal policy of this kingdom is equally to be admired. Our gracious Sovereign maturely examines all matters of national importance, and no unfair or partial representation of any business, or of any of his subjects, is suffered to be made to him, nor can any character be assassinated in the dark, by an unconstitutional *Prime Minister*. He regularly, by your



advice, attends every private council of real moment, and nothing is there submitted to the arbitrary decision of *one man*. This happy state of things we owe to your Lordship's unexampled care of His Majesty's youth. The great promise you made us, that we should frequently see our Sovereign, like his great Predecessor William the Third, presiding in person at the British Treasury, has been fulfilled to the advantage and glory of these times, and to the perfecting of that scheme of *economy*, so earnestly recommended from the Throne, so *ably* carried into execution by *yourself*, and *your Chancellor of the Exchequer*, and so *minutely* by the Lord Steward of the Household. Your whole council of state too is composed of men of the first abilities; the Duke of *Bedford*, the Earls of *Halifax*, *Egremont*, and *Gower*; the Lords *Henley*, *Mansfield*, and *Ligonier*; Mr. *George Grenville*, and Mr. *Fox*. The business of this great empire is not however entirely trusted to them: the most arduous and complicate parts are not only

digested and prepared, but finally revised and settled, by *Gilbert Elliot, Alexander Wedderburn, Esqrs; Sir Henry Erskine, Bart. and the Home.*

Another reason why I chuse your Lordship for the subject of this Dedication, is that you are said, *by former Dedicators*, to cultivate with success the polite arts. They ought to have gone further, and to have shewn how liberally you have rewarded all men of genius. *Malloch* and the *Home* have been nobly provided for. Let *Churchill* or *Armstrong* write like them, your Lordship's *classical* taste will relish their works, and patronize the authors. You, my Lord, are said to be not only a *Patron*, but a *Judge*, and *Malloch* adds, that he wishes, "for the honour of our country, that this praise were not, *almost exclusively*, your own." I wish too, for the honour of *my* country, and to preserve your Lordship from the contagion of a malignant *envy*, that you would not again give *permission* to a scribler to sacrifice almost the whole body of our Nobility and

Gentry to his itch of panegyric on you, and of pay from you; and I submit, whether a future inconvenience may not result from so remarkable an instance how certain and speedy the way to obtain the *last* is, by means of the *first*.

The progress, my Lord, which almost all the sciences have made in *England*, has become the jealousy of Europe. Under your auspices *Botany* and *Tragedy* have reached the utmost height of perfection. Not only the *System of Power*, but the *Vegetable System* has been compleated by the joint labours of your Lordship; and the great Doctor *Hill*. *Tragedy* under *Malloch* and the *Home* has here rivalled the *Greek* model, and united the different merits of the great Moderns. The fire of *Shakespeare*, and the correctness of *Racine*, have met in your two countrymen. One other exotic too I must not forget: *Arthur Murphy*, Gent. He has the additional merit of *acting* no less than of *writing*, so as to touch in the most exquisite manner all the fine feelings of the human frame. I have

scarcely ever felt myself more forcibly affected, than by this poor neglected player, except a few years ago at the Duchess of Queensberry's, where your Lordship so frequently *exhibited*. In one part, which was remarkably *humane* and *amiable*, you were so great, that the general exclamation was, *here you did not act*. In another *part* you were no less perfect. I mean in the famous scene of *Hamlet*, where you *pour fatal poison into the ear* of a good, unsuspecting King. If the great names of MURPHY and BUTE, as *Players*, *pensantur eâdem trutinâ*, it is no flattery to say that you, my Lord, were not only superior, but even unrivalled by him, as well as by all who have ever appeared on the great *stage* of the world. As a *writer*, I take Mr. *Murphy* rather to excel you, except in points of *Orthography*; as an *actor*, he can form no pretension to an equality. *Nature* indeed in her utmost *simplicity* we admire in Mr. *Murphy*; but *Art, Art*, characterises your Lordship.

This too gives your Lordship a claim to the Dedication of this *Play*. You are perfect in every thing respecting the powers of *acting*. Your whole mind has been formed to it. All your faculties have been directed to this important object. While Mr. *Pitt*, Lord *Temple*, and others, your cotemporaries, were preparing themselves for the national business of Parliament, and already taking a distinguished part there, you were treading a private stage in the high buskins of pompous, sonorous Tragedy. With what superior success I record with pleasure. Mr. *Pitt* and his noble Brother are now both in a private station. You have, *almost exclusively*, the smiles of your Sovereign; they only the empty applause of their country. This too they share with others; a Duke of *Newcastle* and *Devonshire*; a Marquis of *Rockingham*, an Earl of *Hardwick*, and the two spirited, young Nobles, who stand so high in fame and virtue, whom *England* glories that she can call her own, the Dukes of *Grafton* and *Portland*. These distin-

guished characters must ever be respected by your Lordship, for their ardent love of our *Sovereign* and of *Liberty*, and honoured by *this* nation as the declared, determined, and combined enemies of despotic, insolent, and contemptible *favouritism*.

As *Tragedy* and *Botany* have thus reared their heads, give me leave to recommend to your Lordship one important point respecting the *Sciences*, and the *Belles Lettres*, which still remains unsettled : I mean *Orthography*. The *French Academy* has fixed it for their nation ; yet a bold modern, *Voltaire*, has dared to deviate from their rules, and has endeavoured to establish a new *Orthography*, still nearer approaching to the modern pronunciation. I have seen, and admired, some curious specimens of your Lordship's labours of this kind, most happily adapted even to the *female* mode of pronunciation, which with me, as well as with a polite nobleman, must ever bear the palm, if not of correctness, yet of grace and elegance. Indeed, my Lord, the *letters* I allude to are

so curious, that I wish for a *fac simile* of them, as we have of one of the *genuine letters* of your country-man *Archibald Bower*. They would, I am persuaded, excel all the curious manuscripts of this kind in your own University of *Aberdeen*, or among the immense collection of learned books of your late valuable purchase, the *Argyle Library*. May I not therefore hope that as the *Definitive Treaty* is now signed, your Lordship's labours will be directed to this important point, and that we may expect to see a compleat *Orthographical Dictionary*, to determine the knotty point of *Britain* for *Briton*, which has of late puzzled that *great* writer, the *great* BRITON himself, notwithstanding the excellence of his *Scottish* education? Ease and elegance will, I am persuaded, still attend your Lordship as inseparably as they have ever done, nor will you in this case be in danger of being forsaken by them, when, as *Benedict* (or if you please in your own botanical phrase, *Carduus Benedictus*) says, *now he is turned* ORTHOGRAPHER, *his words are a very fan-*

*rustical banquet, just so many strange dishes.*

I should have added, my Lord, that the *Play* I make an offering of is a *Tragedy*, the most *grave* and *moral* of all Poems, and therefore with a happy propriety comes inscribed to your Lordship, the most *grave*, the most *moral* of all men. *A witty comedy*, I would never have offered to your Lordship, nor indeed to any of your countrymen. Wit is an *ignis fatuus*, which bewilders and leads us astray. It is the *primrose path*, which conducts to folly. Your Lordship has never deviated into it. You have marched on with solemn dignity, keeping ever the true *tragic* step, and have on the greatest occasions (*so known, so honoured—in the House of Lords*) exhibited to the world what you learnt on the stage, the most pompous diction with the boldest theatrical swell, infinitely superior to all the light airs of wit or humour. The easy *sock* of laughing comedy you never condescended to wear.



I have only one thing more to urge to your Lordship. The *Play* is quite imperfect. Your Lordship loves the stage : so does Mr. *Murphy*. Let me intreat your Lordship to assist your *friend* in perfecting the weak scenes of this *Tragedy*, and from these crude labours of *Ben Johnson* and others, to give us a compleat *Play*. It is the warmest wish of my heart that the Earl of BUTE may speedily compleat the story of ROGER MORTIMER. I hope that your Lordship will *graciously* condescend to undertake this arduous task, to which *parts* like yours, are so peculiarly adapted. A variety of anecdotes in real life will supercede the least necessity of poetical fiction. To you every thing will be easy. The *fifth Act* of *this Play* will find *talents great* as your's, still in full vigour, even after you have run so wonderful a career. If more *important* concerns, either of business, or *amusement*, engage you too much, I beg, my Lord, that you will please *royally* to command Mr. *Murphy*, as Mr. *Macpherson* says you *commanded* him to publish the

*praise-poems* of *Fingal* and *Temora*. Such a work will immortalize your name in the literary, as the Peace of *Versailles* will in the political world, and wherever the name of ROGER MORTIMER shall be mentioned, that of BUTE will follow to the latest times.

Give me leave, my Lord, to offer my thanks as an Englishman, for your public conduct. At your *accession* to power, you found us a distracted, disunited nation. The late abandoned *minister of the people* had wickedly extended every dart of corruption through all ranks of men, the senate (I speak of the *late venal* Parliament) not excepted. You, my Lord, have made us a happy and united nation. Corruption *started like a guilty thing*, upon your summons of Mr. Fox, nor have I heard of a single instance of any undue, unconstitutional influence exerted in the senate. (I speak of the *present, virtuous* Parliament). Your Lordship too from every foreign Court has received the most flattering testimonies of an unbounded confidence in

your *veracity* and *good faith*, equal to their just sense of your *transcendent abilities*.

I beg pardon, my Lord, for having so long detained the *patriot* Minister of the *patriot* King, from the great scenes of *foreign* business, or the rooting out corruption *at home*, or the *innocent* employments of his leisure hours. I hope Doctor *Hill* and the *Home* will forgive me, and that the great Triumvirate having completed a *glorious*, and *permanent* peace, may in *learned ease*, under the shade of their own *olive*, soon enjoy the full sweets of their own philosophy; for as *Candide* observes, *Cela est bien dit, MAIS IL FAUT CULTIVER NOTRE JARDIN*. In your softer, *more envied* hours of retirement, I wish you, my Lord, the most exquisite pleasures under the shade of the *Cyprian Myrtle*. Your *patriot* moments will be passed under the shade of your *Scottish Fir*.

I will no longer intrude on your Lordship. The *Cocoa Tree* and your countrymen may be impatient to settle with you the *Army* and the *Finances* of *this* kingdom.

I have only to add my congratulations on the peculiar *fame* you have acquired, so adequate to the wonderful acts of your administration. You are now in full possession of that *fame* at the head of *Tories* and *Scotsmen*; but alas! my Lord, how fantastick, as well as transitory is *fame*! *The meanest have their day*; and though Mr. Pitt is now adored, as the head of *Whigs* and *Englishmen*, *the greatest can but blaze, and pass away*.

I am, with a zeal and respect equal to your virtues,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Very humble servant.

March 15, 1763.

*Letter to His Grace the DUKE of GRAFTON.*

MY LORD,

“ IT is a very peculiar satisfaction I feel, on my return to my native country, that a nobleman of your grace's superior talents, and inflexible integrity, is at the

head of the most important department of state. I have been witness of the general applause, which has been given abroad, to the choice his majesty has made, and I am happy to find my own countrymen zealous and unanimous in every testimony of their approbation.

I hope, my Lord, that I may congratulate myself, as well as my country, on your grace's being placed in a station of so great power and importance. Though I have been cut off from the body of his majesty's subjects, by a cruel and unjust proscription, I have never entertained an idea inconsistent with the duty of a good subject. My heart still retains all its former warmth for the dignity of England, and the glory of its sovereign. I have not associated with the traitors to our liberties, nor made a single connection with any man who was dangerous, or even suspected by the friends of the protestant family on the throne. I now hope that the rigour of a long-unmerited exile is past, and that I may be allowed to continue in the land and among the friends of liberty.

I wish, my lord, to owe this to the mercy of my prince. I entreat your grace to lay me with all humility at the king's feet, with the truest assurances, that I have never, in any moment of my life, swerved from the duty and allegiance I owe to my sovereign, and that I implore, and in every thing submit to, his majesty's clemency.

Your grace's noble manner of thinking, and the obligations I have formerly received, which are still fresh in my mind, will, I hope, give a full propriety to this address; and I am sure a heart, glowing with the sacred zeal of liberty, must have a favourable reception from the duke of Grafton. I flatter myself, that my conduct will justify your grace's interceding with a prince, who is distinguished by a compassionate tenderness and goodness to all his subjects,

I am, with the truest respect, my Lord,  
 Your Grace's most obedient, and most  
 humble servant,

JOHN WILKES.

*A second letter to His Grace the DUKE of  
GRAFTON, First Commissioner of His Ma-  
jesty's Treasury.*

*Vacare culpâ magnum est solatium ; præ-  
sertim cum habeam duas res quibus me sus-  
tentem, optimarum artium scientiam, &  
maximarum rerum gloriam, quarum altera  
mibi vivo nunquam eripietur, altera ne mor-  
tuo quidem.*

CICERO.

MY LORD,                      Paris, Dec. 12, 1766.

“ I AM not yet recover'd from the asto-  
nishment, into which I was thrown by  
your grace's *verbal* message, in answer to  
my letter of the first of November. In a  
conversation I had with *Colonel Fitzroy* at  
the Hotel d'Espagne, he did me the ho-  
nour of assuring me, that I shou'd find his  
brother my real and sincere friend, ex-  
tremely desirous to concur in doing me  
justice, that he was to tell me this from  
your grace, but that many interesting par-  
ticulars relative to me cou'd not be com-  
municated by letter, nor by the post. I

fondly believ'd these obliging assurances, because on a variety of occasions your grace had testified a full approbation of my conduct, had thank'd me in the most flattering terms as the person the most useful to the common cause in which we were embark'd, and had shewn an uncommon zeal to serve a man who had suffer'd so much in the cause of liberty.

I returned to England with the gayest, and the most lively hopes. As soon as I arriv'd at London, I desir'd my excellent friend, Mr. *Fitzberbert*, to wait on your grace, with every profession of regard on my part, and the resolution I had taken of entirely submitting the mode of the application I shou'd make to the throne for my pardon. I cannot express the anxiety, which your grace's answer gave me, *Mr. Wilkes must write to Lord Chatham*. I then beg'd Mr. *Fitzberbert* to state the reasons, which made it impossible for me to follow that advice, from every principle of honour, both public and private. I shew'd too the impropriety of supplicating a fellow



subject for mercy, the *prerogative* good Kings are the most jealous of, by far the brightest jewel in their crown, and the attribute, by which they may the nearest approach to the Divinity.

I afterwards wrote the letter to your grace, which I have seen in all the public prints. I never receiv'd any other answer but a *verbal* message, *Mr. Wilkes must write to Lord Chatbam : I do nothing without Lord Chatbam.* When I found that my pardon was to be bought with the sacrifice of my honour, I had the virtue not to hesitate. I spurn'd at the proposal, and left my dear native London with a heart full of grief that my fairest hopes were blasted, of humiliation that I had given an easy faith to the promises of a Minister and a Courtier, and of astonishment that a nobleman of parts and discernment could continue in an infatuation, from which the conduct of *Lord Chatbam* had recover'd every other man in the nation. He was indeed long the favourite character of our countrymen. Every tongue

was wanton in his praise. The whole people lavish'd on him their choicest favours, and endeavour'd by the noblest means, by an unbounded generosity and confidence, to have kept him virtuous. With what anguish were we at last deceiv'd ! How much it cost us to give up a man, who had so long entirely kept possession of our hearts ! How cruel was the struggle ! But alas ! how is he chang'd ? how fallen ? from what height fallen ? His glorious sun is set, I believe never to rise again.

We long hop'd, my Lord, that public virtue was the *guide* of his actions, and the love of our country his ruling passion, but he has fully shewn *omnis vis virtusque in lingua sita est*. Our hearts glow'd with gratitude for the important services he had done against the common enemy, and the voice of the nation hail'd him our deliverer ; but private ambition was all the while skulking behind the shield of the patriot, and at length in an evil hour made him quit the scene of all his glory, the

only place, in which he cou'd be truly useful, for a retreat, where he knew it was impossible the confidence of the people cou'd follow, but where he might in inglorious ease bear his *BLUSHING honours thick upon him.*

I might now, my Lord, expostulate with your grace on a *verbal* message, and of such a nature, in answer to a letter couch'd in the most decent and respectful terms, coming too from a late member of the legislature. I might regret, that the largest proffers of friendship, and real service, cou'd mean no more than two or three words of cold advice, that I shou'd apply to another. I might be tempted to think it a duty of office in the first Lord of the Treasury to have submitted to his Majesty a petition relative to the exercise of the noblest act of regal power, which any constitution can give any sovereign. Surely, my Lord, my application to the first Commissioner of the Treasury, who is always consider'd as the first Minister in England, was the very proper application. As I

had made no discovery of any new wonderful pill or drop, nor pretended to the secret of curing the gout or the tooth-ach, I never thought of soliciting *Lord Chatham* for a *privy seal*. His Lordship's office was neither important, nor responsible. I will not however enlarge on this, but I shall desire your grace's permission fully to state what has happen'd to me as a private gentleman relative to *Lord Chatham*, because I wou'd not leave a doubt concerning the propriety of my conduct, in a mind naturally so candid, and so capable of judging truly, as that of the *Duke of Grafton*.

I believe that the flinty heart of *Lord Chatham* has known the sweets of private friendship, and the fine feelings of humanity, as little as even Lord Mansfield. They are both form'd to be admir'd, not belov'd. A proud, insolent, overbearing, ambitious man is always full of the ideas of his own importance, and vainly imagines himself superior to the equality necessary among real friends, in all the mo-

ments of true enjoyment. Friendship is too pure a pleasure for a mind canker'd with ambition, or the lust of power and grandeur. *Lord Chatbam* declar'd in Parliament the strongest attachment to *Lord Temple*, one of the greatest characters our country cou'd ever boast, and said *he wou'd live and die with his noble brother*. He has receiv'd obligations of the first magnitude from that *noble brother*, yet what trace of gratitude or of friendship was ever found in any part of his conduct? and has he not now declar'd the most open variance, and even hostility? I have had as warm and express declarations of regard as cou'd be made by this marble-hearted friend, and *Mr. Pitt* had no doubt his views in even feeding me with flattery from time to time; on occasions too where candour and indulgence were all I cou'd claim. He may remember the compliments he paid me on two certain poems in the year 1754. If I were to take the declarations made by himself and the late *Mr Potter à la lettre*, they were more charm'd with those verses

after the ninety ninth reading than after the first ; so that from this circumstance, as well as a few of his speeches in parliament, it seems to be likewise true of the first orator, or rather the first comedian, of our age, *non displicuisse illi jocos, sed non contigisse.*

I will now submit to your grace, if there was not something peculiarly base and perfidious in *Mr. Pitt's* calling me a *blasphemer of my God* for those very verses, at a time when I was absent, and dangerously ill from an affair of honour. The charge too he knew was false, for the whole ridicule of those two pieces was confin'd to certain mysteries, which formerly the *unplac'd and unpension'd Mr. Pitt* did not think himself oblig'd even to affect to believe. He added another charge equally unjust, that I was the *libeller of my king*, tho' he was sensible that I never wrote a single line disrespectful to the sacred person of my sovereign, but had only attack'd the despotism of his ministers, with the spirit becoming a good subject, and zea-

lous friend of his country. The reason of this perfidy was plain. He was then beginning to pay homage to the *Scottish* Idol, and I was the most acceptable sacrifice he cou'd offer at the shrine of BUTE. History scarcely gives so remarkable a change. He was a few years ago the mad, seditious Tribune of the People, insulting his Sovereign even in his capital city, now he is the abject, crouching deputy of the proud Scot, who he declar'd in Parliament *wanted wisdom, and held principles incompatible with freedom*; a most ridiculous character surely for a statesman, and the subject of a free kingdom, but the very proper composition for a *favourite*. Was it possible for me after this to write a suppliant letter to *Lord Chatbam*? I am the first to pronounce myself most unworthy of a pardon, if I cou'd have obtain'd it on those terms.

Although I declare, my Lord, that the conscious pride of virtue makes me look down with contempt on a man, who cou'd be guilty of this baseness, who cou'd in the lobby declare that I must be support-

ed, and in the House on the same day desert and revile me, yet I will on every occasion do justice to the Minister. He has serv'd the public in all those points, where the good of the nation coincided with his own private views; and in no other. I venerate the memory of the Secretary, and I think it an honour to myself that I steadily supported in Parliament an administration, the most successful we ever had, and which carried the glory of the nation to the highest pitch in every part of the world. He found his country almost in despair. He rais'd the noble spirit of England, and strain'd every nerve against our enemies. His plans, when in power, were always great, tho' in direct opposition to the declarations of his whole life, when out of power. The invincible bravery of the British troops gave success even to the most rash, the most extravagant, the most desperate of his projects. He saw early the hostile intentions of Spain, and if the *written advice* had been follow'd, a very few weeks had then probably clos'd the



last general war; although the merit of that *advice* was more the merit of his *noble brother*, than his own. After the omnipotence of Lord Bute in 1761 had forc'd Mr. Pitt to retire from his Majesty's Councils, and the cause was declar'd by himself to be our conduct relative to Spain, I had the happiness of setting that affair in so clear and advantageous a light, that he express'd the most entire satisfaction, and particular obligations to my friendship. I do not however make this a claim of merit to Mr. Pitt. It was my duty, from the peculiar advantages of information I then had.

The constitution of our country has no obligations to him. He has left it with all its beauties, and all its blemishes. He never once appear'd in earnest about any question of liberty. He was the cause that in 1764 no point was gain'd for the public in the two great questions of GENERAL WARRANTS, and the SEIZURE OF PAPERS. The curst remains of the court of Star Chamber, the enormous power of the

Attorney General, the sole great judicial officer of the crown, who is *durante bene placito*, and not upon oath, who tramples on *Grand Juries*, and breaks down the first, the foremost barriers of liberty, continued during his administration the same as before. Every grievance, which was not rooted out by the glorious Revolution, and the latter struggles of our patriots, still subsists in full force, notwithstanding the absolute power he exercis'd for several years over every department of the state. But I have done with *Lord Chatbam*. I leave him to the poor consolation of a place, a pension, and a peerage, for which he has sold the confidence of a great nation. Pity shall find, and weep over him.

I am now, my Lord, once more driven from the *Romans* to the gay, the polite *Athenians*, but I shall endeavour to convince your grace that I am not totally lost to my country nor to myself, in this scene of elegant dissipation, and that I do not waste the time in unavailing complaints of my hard fate, and the ingratitude of those

I have serv'd with success, for I shall very soon beg to call the public attention to some points of national importance, and in the mean time I shall embrace this opportunity of doing myself justice against the calumnies, which a restless faction does not cease to propagate.

The affair of the GENERAL WARRANT, and the HABEAS CORPUS, is told very unfaithfully, and almost every particular, relative to my being made a prisoner, and sent to the Tower on the 30th of April 1763, has been injuriously misrepresented in several late publications. I shall therefore state the transactions of that memorable day, and I may appeal to the minutes taken at the time for the accuracy of this relation.

On my return from the city early in the morning, I met at the end of Great George Street one of the King's Messengers. He told me that he had a *warrant* to apprehend me, which he must execute immediately, and that I must attend him to Lord Halifax's. I desir'd to see the *war-*

*warrant*. He said it was *against the authors, printers, and publishers of the North Briton*, No. 45, and that his verbal orders were to arrest *Mr. Wilkes*. I told him the *warrant* did not respect me: I advis'd him to be very civil, and to use no violence in the street, for if he attempted force, I wou'd put him to death in the instant, but if he wou'd come quietly to my house, I wou'd convince him of the illegality of the *warrant*, and the injustice of the orders he had receiv'd. He chose to accompany me home, and then produc'd the GENERAL WARRANT. I declar'd that such a *warrant* was absolutely illegal and void in itself, that it was a ridiculous *warrant* against the whole English nation, and I ask'd why he wou'd serve it on me, rather than on the Lord Chancellor, on either of the Secretaries, on Lord Bute, or Lord Corke, my next door neighbour. The answer was, *I am to arrest Mr. Wilkes*. About an hour afterwards two other Messengers arriv'd, and several of their assistants: They all endeavour'd in vain to persuade me to ac-

company them to Lord Halifax's. I had likewise many civil messages from his Lordship to desire my attendance. My only answer was, that I had not the honour of visiting his Lordship, and this first application was rather rude and ungentlemanlike.

While some of the Messengers and their assistants were with me, *Mr. Churchill* came into the room. I had heard that their verbal orders were likewise to apprehend him, but I suspected they did not know his person, and by presence of mind I had the happiness of saving my friend. As soon as *Mr. Churchill* enter'd the room, I accosted him, *Good morrow, Mr. Thomson. How does Mrs. Thomson do to-day? Does she dine in the country? Mr. Churchill* thank'd me, said she then waited for him, that he only came for a moment to ask me how I did, and almost directly took his leave. He went home immediately, secur'd all his papers, and retir'd into the country. The Messengers cou'd never get intelligence where he was. The fol-

lowing week he came to town, and was present both the days of hearing at the court of Common Pleas.

The whole morning pass'd in messages between Lord Halifax and me. The business of the Messengers being soon publicly known, several of my friends came to me on so extraordinary an event. I desir'd two or three of them to go to the court of COMMON PLEAS, to make affidavit of my being made a prisoner in my own house under an illegal *warrant*, and to demand the HABEAS CORPUS. The Chief Justice gave orders that it should issue immediately.

A constable came afterwards with several assistants to the Messengers. I repeatedly insisted on their all leaving me, and declar'd I wou'd not suffer any one of them to continue in the room against my consent, for I knew and wou'd support the rights of an Englishman in the sanctuary of his own house. I was then threaten'd with immediate violence, and a regiment of the guards, if necessary. I soon found

all resistance wou'd be vain. The constable demanded my sword, and insisted on my immediately attending the Messengers to Lord Halifax's. I replied, that if they were not assassins, they shou'd first give me their names in writing. They complied with this, and thirteen set their hands to the paper. I then got into my own chair, and proceeded to Lord Halifax's, guarded by the Messengers and their assistants.

I was conducted into a great apartment fronting the park, where Lord Halifax and Lord Egremont, the two Secretaries of State, were sitting at a table cover'd with paper, pens and ink. The under-secretaries stood near their lordships. Mr Lovel Stanhope, the law clerk, and Mr Philip Carteret Webb, the solicitor of the Treasury, were the only persons besides who attended. Lord Egremont receiv'd me with a supercilious, insolent air ; Lord Halifax with great politeness. I was desir'd to take the chair near their Lordships, which I did. Lord Halifax then began, *that he was really concern'd that he had been*

*necessitated to proceed in that manner against me, that it was exceedingly to be regretted that a gentleman of my rank and abilities cou'd engage against his King, and his Majesty's government. I replied, that his Lordship cou'd not be more mistaken, for the King had not a subject more zealously attach'd to his person and government than myself; that I had all my life been a warm friend of the House of Brunswick, and the Protestant Succession; that while I made the truest professions of duty to the King, I was equally free to declare in the same moment, that I believ'd no Prince had ever the misfortune of being serv'd by such ignorant, insolent, and despotic ministers, of which my being there was a fresh, glaring proof, for I was brought before their Lordships by force, under a GENERAL WARRANT, which nam'd no body, in violation of the laws of my country, and of the privileges of Parliament; that I beg'd both their Lordships to remember my present declaration, that on the very first day of the ensuing session of Parliament, I wou'd stand up in my place and impeach them for the out-*



rage they had committed in my person against the liberties of the people. Lord Halifax answer'd, that nothing had been done but by the advice of the best lawyers, and that it was now his duty to examine me. He had in his hand a long list of questions, regularly number'd. He began, *Mr. Wilkes, do you know Mr. Kearsly? when did you see him? &c. &c.* I replied, that I suspected there was a vain hope my answer wou'd tend rather to what his Lordship wish'd to know, that he seem'd to be lost in a dark, and intricate path, and really wanted much light to guide him thro' it, but that I cou'd assure his Lordship not a single ray shou'd come from me. Lord Halifax return'd to the charge, *Mr. Wilkes, do you know Mr. Kearsly? &c. &c.* I said, that this was a curiosity on his Lordship's part, which however laudable in the secretary, I did not find myself disposed to gratify, and that at the end of my examination all the quires of paper on their Lordships' table shou'd be as milk white as at the beginning. Lord Halifax then desir'd to remind me of my being their pri-

soner, and of their right to examine me. I answer'd, that I shou'd imagine their Lordships' time was too precious to be trifled away in that manner ; that they might have seen before I wou'd never say one word they desir'd to know ; and I added, *Indeed, my Lords, I am not made of such flight, flimsy stuff ;* then turning to Lord Egremont, I said, *Con'd you employ tortures, I wou'd never utter a word unbecoming my honour, or affecting the sacred confidence of any friend. God has given me firmness and fidelity. You trifle away your time most egregiously, my Lords.* Lord Halifax then advis'd me to weigh well the consequences of my conduct, and the advantages to myself of a generous, frank confession. I lamented the prostitution of the word, *GENEROUS*, to what I shou'd consider as an act of the utmost treachery, cowardice, and wickedness. His Lordship then ask'd me, *If I chose to be a prisoner in my own house, at the Tower, or in Newgate, for he was dispos'd to oblige me.* I gave his Lordship my thanks, but I desir'd to remark, *that I never receiv'd an obligation, but from*

a friend, that I demanded justice, and my immediate liberty, as an Englishman, who had not offended the laws of his country ; that as to the rest, it was beneath my attention, the odious idea of restraint was the same odious idea every where ; that I wou'd go where I pleas'd, and if I was restrain'd by a superior force, I must yield to the violence, but wou'd never give colour to it by a shameful compromise ; that every thing was indifferent to me in comparison of my honour and my liberty ; that I made my appeal to the laws, and had already by my friends applied to the COURT OF COMMON PLEAS for the HABEAS CORPUS, which the Chief Justice had actually order'd to be issued, and that I hop'd to owe my discharge solely to my innocence, and to the vigour of the law in a free country. Lord Halifax then told me, that I shou'd be sent to the Tower, where I shou'd be treated in a manner suitable to my rank, and that he hop'd the Messengers had behav'd well to me. I acknowledg'd that they had behav'd with humanity, and even civility to me, notwithstanding the russian orders given them by

*his Lordship's Colleague.* I then again turn'd to Lord Egremont, and said, *Your Lordship's verbal orders were to drag me out of my bed at midnight. The first man, who had enter'd my bedchamber by force, I shou'd have laid dead on the spot. Probably I shou'd have fallen in the skirmish with the others. I thank God, not your Lordship, that such a scene of blood has been avoided. Your Lordship is very ready to issue orders, which you have neither the courage to sign, nor I believe to justify.* No reply was made to this. The conversation drop'd. Lord Halifax retir'd into another apartment. Lord Egremont continued fullen and silent, about a quarter of an hour. I then made a few remarks on some capital pictures, which were in the room, and his Lordship left me alone.

I was afterwards conducted into another apartment. I found there several of my friends, in argument with the most infamous of all the tools of that administration, *Mr. Philip Carteret Webb.* He confirm'd to me, that I was to be carried to the Tower, and *wish'd to know if I had any*

*favours to ask. I replied, that I was used to confer, not to receive, favours ; that I was superior to the receiving any even from his Masters ; that all I wou'd say to him was, if my valet de chambre was allowed to attend me in the Tower, I shou'd be shav'd and have a clean shirt, if he was not, I shou'd have a long beard, and dirty linen. Mr. Webb said, that orders would be given for his admission at the Tower. I complain'd of the shameful evasion of the Habeas Corpus, in sending me to the Tower, tho' the orders of the Chief Justice Pratt were known. Mr. Webb made no reply to this. He came to visit me at the Tower in the beginning of my imprisonment, when I had not the permission to see any friend. I desir'd him almost at his first entrance to take his leave, for if I was not allow'd to see those I lov'd, I wou'd not see those I despis'd.*

While I continued in the Tower, I was press'd to offer bail in order to regain my liberty, and two of the first nobility desir'd to be my securities in the sum of 100,000 l.

each. I was exceedingly grateful for the offer, but wou'd not accept it. I observ'd, that neither my health, nor my spirits, were affected ; that I wou'd by great temperance and abstinence endeavour to compensate the want of air and exercise, but if my health suffer'd in a dangerous way, I wou'd then accept such generous offers, for I hop'd to live that so noble a cause might be brought to a glorious issue for the liberties of my country. From the beginning of this arduous business, I wou'd not on any occasion give bail, by which I never involv'd any friend, and remain'd the perfect master of my own conduct.

I shall now, my Lord, proceed to do myself justice against a calumny of *Sir John Cust*, a person of the meanest natural parts, and infinitely beneath all regard, except from the office he bears, with the utmost discredit to himself, with equal disgrace and insufficiency to the public. I find in the volume of the *Journals of the House of Commons*, just publish'd, vol. 29. p. 721. " Jovis 19<sup>o</sup> die Januarii 1764.

“ Mr. Speaker acquainted the House, that  
 “ he, upon Tuesday last, receiv’d a Let-  
 “ ter by the General Post from Mr.  
 “ Wilkes, dated Paris the 11th Instant;  
 “ inclosing a paper in the French Lan-  
 “ guage, purporting to be a certificate of  
 “ one of the French King’s Physicians,  
 “ and of a Surgeon of the said King’s  
 “ Army, relating to the state of Mr  
 “ Wilkes’s health, subscribed with Two  
 “ Names, but not authenticated before a  
 “ Notary Public, nor the Signature there-  
 “ of verified in any Manner whatsoever.”

Then follow the *letter* and *certificate*. The  
 insinuation is too plain to be over-look’d,  
 too false to be forgiven. The signature  
 was verified by my letter. It is certain  
 that the certificate was in all the usual  
 forms; yet, though the affair was deter-  
 min’d with respect to me, and I was inde-  
 cently expell’d the *House of Commons* on  
 the same day, without any time being al-  
 low’d for other proof, a regard to truth,  
 and my own honour, made me give the  
 most compleat answer to this wretched sub-

terfuge of the abandon'd *Majority*. I sent a second certificate in the unusual form they had prescrib'd themselves, attested by two notaries, and confirmed by the English Embassador. I wrote likewise again to the speaker on the 5th of February following, but neither the second letter, certificate, or attestation, is to be found in the *Journals*, as they ought in justice to my character. I have, however, my Lord, taken care that they shou'd be publish'd, for in a free government like ours, I will endeavour thro' my life to emulate the spirit of antient Rome, *provoco ad populum*; and while the people do not condemn me, I shall, perhaps in this, most certainly in every succeeding age, rise superior to any party cabal, or court faction. This step cover'd my enemies with confusion, but was of no farther service to me. The party war against me ceas'd of course in the *House of Commons*, but flam'd with equal fury in *Westminster Hall*, and was attended with every circumstance of revenge and cruelty, which the ingenious wit of a Mansfield



cou'd devise to gratify the malice of a bad heart.

By the same JOURNALS, page 723, I find that I am voted *guilty of writing and publishing the paper, intituled* "The North Briton, No. 45," and that several witnesses were examin'd. There is not however in the JOURNALS a single word of the evidence they gave, and it is well known that not one of them did, or cou'd, say any thing relative to the *authorship*. The evidence of the *publication* was exceeding slight, but the willingness of the judges made ample amends for the deficiency of the witnesses, who were not upon oath. The Administration did not chuse to risk either of these charges against me even in the court of King's Bench, and I was only tried for a *re-publication*. I will never blush at the imputation of being the *author* of that paper, because I know that truth is respected in every line. One circumstance will soon fully appear to the indignant public. I mean the large debt on the *Civil List*, contracted chiefly by the scandalous purchase

of a Parliamentary approbation of the late ignominious *Peace*, the arbitrary *Excise*, and other ruinous measures of the *Scottish* minister. But I leave the affair of the *Civil List* to a future exact discussion.

The last calumny, my Lord, which I shall disprove, respects the actions at law against Lord Halifax. It is said that I have neglected, or purposely discontinued them, since my exile. The imputation is totally groundless. I was so ill at Paris in the beginning of the year 1764 that it was impossible for me then to return to England alive, but I gave the most express orders that the law proceedings shou'd be carried on with vigour, and in fact there was not a moment's delay. When my wound began to heal in the spring, I was dissuaded by all my friends from returning to a country, where the same administration, which had illegally seiz'd my person, plunder'd my house, corrupted the fidelity of my servants, and by the wicked arts of an arbitrary Judge, who caus'd the *records to be falsified*, had just

obtain'd two verdicts against me, were still in full power. I yielded to these reasons, because *propter eorum scelus, nihil mihi intra meos parietes tutum, nihil insidiis vacuum viderem*. Lord Halifax for near two years avail'd himself of every advantage, which privilege and the chicane of law cou'd furnish. He never enter'd any appearance to a Court of Justice, and the Common Pleas had, as far as they cou'd, punish'd such an open contempt, such a daring proof that *Administration* wou'd not submit to the *law of the land*, and had endeavour'd to compel his Lordship to appear. Towards the end of 1764 I was *outlaw'd*. The proceedings continued against his Lordship till that hour. He then appear'd, and his single plea was, that as an *outlaw*, I cou'd not hold any action. No other defence was made against the heinous charge of having in my person violated the rights of the people.

I felt this, my Lord, as the most cruel stroke, which fortune had given me. Justice had at length overtaken many of

the inferior criminals, but my *out-lawry* prevented my punishing, the great, the capital offender, when after all his subterfuges, he was almost within my reach. I please myself however with the reflexion that no minister has since dar'd to issue a **GENERAL WARRANT**, nor to sign an order for the **SEIZURE OF PAPERS**. In the one the personal liberty of every subject is immediately concern'd. On the other may depend not only his own safety and property, but what will come still more home to a man of honour, the security, the happiness of those, with whom he is most intimately connected, their fortunes, their future views, perhaps secrets, the discovery of which wou'd drive the coldest stoic to despair, their very existence possibly, all that is important in the public walk of life, all that is dear and sacred in friendship and in love. I was the *last* oppress'd, but I was the *first* man, who had the courage to carry thro' a just resistance to these acts of despotism. Now the opinions of our sovereign Courts of Justice

are known and establish'd. I rejoice that several others, who suffer'd before me, have since made their appeal to the laws, and obtain'd redress. I hope the iron rod of ministerial oppression is at length broken, and that I am the last victim of violence and cruelty. I shall not then regret all the sacrifices I have made, and my mind shall feast itself with the recollection in the unjust exile I am doom'd to suffer from my friends and my native land.

I will now, my Lord, only add, however unfashionable such a declaration may be, that consistency shall never depart from my character, that to the last moment I will preserve the same fix'd and unconquerable hatred to the enemies of freedom and the constitution of our happy island, the same warm attachment to the friends and the cause of liberty, that I keep a steady and a longing eye on England, that my endeavours for the good and service of my country, by every method left me, shall have a period only with my life, and that altho' I do not mean to lay any future

claim to your grace's favour, I will take care to secure your esteem.

I am, my Lord,

Your Grace's most obedient,

and very humble servant,

JOHN WILKES.

Gratias tibi, DEUS optime, maxime, ejus nutu & imperio nata est & aucta RES ANGLICANA, lubens lætusque ago, LIBERTATE PUBLICA in hanc diem & horam, per manus, quod voluisti, meas, servatâ, eandem & in æternum serva, fove, protege propitiate, supplex oro.



( 192 )

The N O R T H B R I T O N.

N U M B E R   X I I .

*Pensions, which reason to the worthy gave  
Add fresh dishonour to the fool and knave.*

ANON.

To the N O R T H B R I T O N.

S I R,

I DO not know in any controversy to  
sure a method of coming at truth  
(which is always the pretence, though so  
seldom the real object of modern enqui-  
ries) as a just and strict definition of all  
the words and phrases of any importance,  
which are afterwards to be in use. This  
practice is universal, excepting only in  
*theological* and *political* controversy. If I  
take up a book of mathematics, the writer  
defines in the very first page, what a *tri-  
angle*, a *circle*, or a *trapezium* is; and  
then argues closely from the precise and  
accurate ideas of each, which the author  
and reader have previously settled. A  
book of fortification as regularly sets out

with explaining to me what a *bastion*, a *demi-lune*, or a *horn-work* is. I have read much religious controversy; for unhappily there is as little agreement between the ministers of the gospel, as between the ministers of state. I do not however remember to have found in any of our divines a satisfactory definition of *faith*, *free will*, or *predestination*. We are not yet arrived at the same accuracy; with respect to the meaning of these words, as of a *circle* or a *square*. The same remark will hold true in *political* controversy. Who has with any precision defined the words *faction* or *patriot*? The word *favourite* alone we have of late pretty fully understood the force of——both from the definitions of the MONITOR and of the NORTH BRITON: yet give me leave to say, Sir, that neither of you have reached the force and closeness of expression in the great lexicographer, Mr. JOHNSON, who defines a *favourite* to be *a mean wretch, whose whole business is by any means to please*. But whether the word has been well defined or



not, in former periods of the English history, the effect of it has been very fully felt, and even at this hour it is never uttered but with the most unjust passion and ill-founded resentment, as if the nation was now smarting from the sad consequences of its reality, and exertion in pride and insolence.

The word *pension* likewise has of late much puzzled our politicians. I do not recollect that any one of them has ventured at a definition of it. Mr. Johnson, as he is now a *pensioner*, one should naturally have recourse to, for the truest literary information on this subject. His definition then of a *pension* is, *an allowance made to any one, without an equivalent. In England it is generally understood to mean pay given to a state hireling for treason to his country.* And under the word *pensioner* we read, 1. *one who is supported by an allowance paid at the will of another: a dependant.* 2. *a slave of state, hired by a stipend to obey his master.* But with submission to so great a prodigy of learning, I

should think both definitions very erroneous. Is the said Mr. Johnson a *dependant*? or is he a *slave of state, bired by a stipend to obey his master*? There is, according to him, no alternative. Is his *pension understood to be pay given him as a state hireling for treason to his country*? Whoever gave it him, must then have read *London*, a Poem, &c. &c. and must have mistaken all his *distant hints and dark allusions*. As Mr. Johnson therefore has, I think, failed in this account, may I, after so great an authority, venture at a short definition of so intricate a word? A *pension* then I would call *an annual reward from the Prince for services performed, or expected to be performed, to the country*. Let us consider the celebrated Mr. Johnson, and a few other late pensioners, in this light.

Mr. Johnson's many writings in the cause of liberty, his steady attachment to the present Royal Family, his gentleman-like compliments to his majesty's grandfather, and his decent treatment of the

parliament, intitle him to a share of the royal bounty. It is a matter of astonishment that *no notice has* till now been taken of him by government for some of the most *extraordinary* productions, which appeared with the name of *Samuel Johnson*; a name sacred to *George and Liberty*. No man, who has read only one poem of his, *London*, but must congratulate the good sense and spirit of discernment of the minister, who bestows such a part of the public treasure on this distinguished friend of the public, of his master's family, and of the constitution of the country. These rewards are now most judiciously given to those who have supported, not to those who have all their lives written with bitterness, and harangued with virulence against the government. But with all due deference to the first minister's discernment, I rather think that Mr. Johnson (as merit of *this kind* must be provided for) might have been better provided for in another way: I mean at the board of *Excise*. I am desirous of seeing him one of the *commis-*

sioners, if not at the head of that board, that the gentlemen there may cease to be *wretches hired by those to whom excise is paid*. His definition of *excise* is, that it is *a hateful tax levied upon commodities, and adjudged not by the common judges of property, but wretches hired by those to whom excise is paid*. Is the *excise* still on the same footing? Is wish to know who *hires* these *wretches*, the *commissioners of excise*. Mr. Johnson says *to whom is excise paid*? If that is indeed the case, I am not at a loss *to whom excise is paid*, nor who of consequence, in Mr. Johnson's idea, *hires these wretches*.

These are fair extracts from the celebrated *English Dictionary*, which was presented by a noble lord in such pomp to the academy *della Crusca*. It will give the country of the old Romans the justest ideas of English liberty, and of the present patrons of it among us, who have so liberally rewarded the author. But the *literati of Italy* will not only find the work an excellent *literary dictionary*, but a complete system of English politics and history, and

himself, when Hannibal was at our gates ; what real strength the nation derived from his great and spirited efforts ; what *sums* he subscribed ; what immense expences he bore with chearfulness, to encourage *his* friends to the straining of every nerve against *his* and our common enemy. I do not indeed recollect that he raised any regiment, though many others of the nobility did : but I readily comprehend why he did not. The administration were at that time so over-run with gross prejudices, that they thought his lordship, and those friends of his, could not be trusted. The present ministry think more justly ; and should such another day come, I am satisfied they will be found as zealous in the cause of their country as before. It is plain then, that Lord LITCHFIELD is at the head of the pensioners on account of real services performed in times of real danger.

I think that I am right in declaring that a *pension* may not only be given for *real services actually performed*, but likewise for

*services expected to be performed.* This I take to be the case of the *pensions* generally given to the *sixteen Peers*, who represent the whole nobility of *Scotland*. I am far from meaning that they are the only sixteen *Scottish* peers who enjoy *pensions* : I speak of them now, as having votes in the house of Lords, from their being representatives of all the rest. *Pensions* have commonly been given to them for the services they *are to* perform to their country there, and to give them the true bias, which they might otherwise mistake. When lord BUTE was in a former parliament one of the sixteen *Scottish* peers, he actually enjoyed a *pension* on this truly honourable footing ; and therefore he has the fairest right to the title of *Grand Pensionary*. In this more liberal construction of the word *pension*, I should imagine the *Lords of the Bedchamber* in general were included : and this I take to be the true reason of the increase of their number in the present reign from *twelve* to *eighteen* ; which is still kept filled up. This is by

no means want of œconomy, that darling attribute of modern statesmen ! It is done, that so many more noble persons may be ready to perform in parliament any services which their *country* calls for ; and is thus in reality only a *more honourable pension*.

I beg to be understood. Not only real services in parliament, but every species of elegance and refinement in the polite arts may, I think, without censure, be rewarded with a *pension*. A politeness equal to that of Lord TALBOT's—horse ought not to pass unnoticed. At the coronation he paid a new, and for a horse, singular respect to his sovereign. I appeal to applauding multitudes (who were so charmed, as to forget every rule of decency, and to *clap* him even in the *Royal* presence) whether his, or his lord's *dexterity* on that day was not equal to any courtier's. Caligula's horse had not half the merit. We remember how nobly *he* was provided for. What the exact proportion of merit was between his lordship and his horse, and how far the pension should be divided between them,

I will not take upon me to determine. I leave this knotty point to be decided between them by the earl of *Eglington*, because Mr. *John Hume*, alias *Home* (for so it is printed in the new sweet nosegay of *Scottish thistles*) tells the world, vol. ii. p. 230. that he is

*A friend of princes, poets, wits,  
A judge infallible of tits.*

Some of the regulations of the courtiers themselves for that day had long been settled by former lord stewards. It was reserved for lord Talbot to settle an *etiquette* for their horses. I much admire many of his new regulations, especially those for the royal kitchen. I approve the discharging of so many *turnspits* and *cooks*, who were grown of very little use. I do not however quite like the precedent of giving them *pensions* for doing nothing. It was high time to put an end to that too great indulgence in eating and drinking, which went by the name of *Old English hospitality*, when the house of commons



had granted a poor, niggardly *civil list* of only 800,000*l.* I sincerely venerate his lordship's great abilities, and deeply regret that they are not employed by government in a way more *confidential*, more suited to his manly character.

There is one *Scottish pension* I have been told of, which gave me real pleasure. It is Mr. *Hume's*: as I am satisfied that it must be Mr. *David Hume*, whose writings have been so justly admired both abroad and at home, and cannot be Mr. *John Hume*, who has endeavoured to bring the name into contempt, by putting it to two insipid tragedies, and other trash in the *Scottish miscellanies*.

I must, in compliance with a few vulgar writers, call the *inadequate* reward given to Mr. Pitt for as great services as ever were performed by any subject, a *pension*. In the same light we are to consider the duke of Cumberland's and Marlborough's, Prince Ferdinand's and Admiral Hawke's, Mr. Onslow's, &c. I was going to call it the *King's gold box*; for Mr. Pitt having

before received the most obliging marks of regard from the rest of the public, the testimony of his sovereign only remained wanting. The circumstances however attending it convince me, that *at that moment* it was artfully contrived by courtiers to be given to Mr. Pitt, neither for *Louisbourg, Quebec*, nor *Pondicherry*, but to ruin him in the opinion of mankind, and from the hope of putting an end to that popularity, which he has through life courted with such painful zeal, prostituted to such flagitious purposes, and made use of above all to raise the flame of discord, which raged for the last six years, but is now, under the auspices of lord BUTE, happily extinguished.

I am, &c.

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THE NORTH BRITON.  
NUMBER XLV.

*The following advertisement appeared in all the papers on the 13th of April.*

THE NORTH BRITON makes his appeal to the good sense, and to the candour of the ENGLISH nation. In the present unsettled and fluctuating state of the *administration*, he is really fearful of falling into involuntary errors, and he does not wish to mislead. All his reasonings have been built on the strong foundation of *facts*; and he is not yet informed of the whole interior state of government with such *minute precision*, as now to venture the submitting his crude ideas of the present political crisis to the discerning and impartial public. The SCOTTISH minister has indeed *retired*. Is HIS influence at an end? or does HE still govern by the *three* wretched tools of his power, who, to their indelible infamy, have supported the most odious of his measures, the late

ignominious *Peace*, and the wicked extension of the arbitrary mode of *Excise*? The NORTH BRITON has been steady in his opposition to a *single*, insolent, incapable, despotic minister; and is equally ready, in the service of his country, to combat the *triple-headed, Cerberean* administration, if the SCOT is to assume that motley form. By HIM every arrangement *to this hour* has been made, and the notification has been as regularly sent by letter under HIS HAND. *It therefore seems clear to a demonstration*, that HE intends only to retire into that situation, which HE held before HE first took the seals; I mean the dictating to every part of the king's administration. The NORTH BRITON desires to be understood, as having pledged himself a firm and intrepid assertor of the rights of his fellow-subjects, and of the liberties of WHIGS and ENGLISHMEN.

*Genus ORATIONIS atrox, & vehemens, cui  
opponitur lenitatis & mansuetudinis.*

CICERO.

THE *King's Speech* has always been considered by the legislature, and by the public at large, as the *Speech of the Minister*. It has regularly, at the beginning of every session of parliament, been referred by both houses to the consideration of a committee, and has been generally canvassed with the utmost freedom, when the minister of the crown has been obnoxious to the nation. The ministers of this free country, conscious of the undoubted privileges of so spirited a people, and with the terrors of parliament before their eyes, have ever been cautious, no less with regard to the matter, than to the expressions, of *speeches*, which they have advised the sovereign to make from the throne, at the opening of each session. They well knew that an honest house of parliament, true to their trust, could not fail to detect the fallacious arts, or to remonstrate against the daring acts of violence, committed by

any minister. The Speech at the *close* of the session has ever been considered as the most *secure* method, of promulgating the favourite court creed among the vulgar ; because the parliament, which is the constitutional guardian of the liberties of the people, has in this case no opportunity of remonstrating, or of impeaching any wicked servant of the crown.

This week has given the public the most abandoned instance of ministerial effrontery ever attempted to be imposed on mankind. The *minister's speech* of last Tuesday, is not to be paralleled in the annals of this country. I am in doubt, whether the imposition is greater on the sovereign, or on the nation. Every friend of his country must lament that a prince of so many great and amiable qualities, whom England truly reveres, can be brought to give the sanction of his sacred name to the most odious measures, and to the most unjustifiable, public declarations, from a throne ever renowned for truth, honour, and unsullied virtue. I am sure, all fo-

foreigners, especially the king of Prussia, will hold the minister in contempt and abhorrence. He has made our sovereign declare, *My expectations have been fully answered by the happy effects which the several allies of my crown have derived from this salutary measure of the Definitive Treaty. The powers at war with my good brother, the king of Prussia, have been induced to agree to such terms of accommodation, as that great prince has approved; and the success which has attended my negotiation, has necessarily and immediately diffused the blessings of peace through every part of Europe.* The infamous fallacy of this whole sentence is apparent to all mankind: for it is known, that the king of Prussia did not barely approve, but absolutely dictated, as conqueror, every article of the terms of peace. No advantage of any kind has accrued to that magnanimous prince from *our negotiation*, but he was basely deserted by the *Scottish* prime-minister of *England*. He was known by every court in Europe to be *scarcely* on better terms of friendship

here, than at *Vienna*; and he was betrayed by us in the *treaty of peace*. What a strain of insolence, therefore, is it in a minister to lay claim to what he is conscious all his efforts tended to prevent, and meanly to arrogate to himself a share in the fame and glory of one of the greatest princes the world has ever seen? The king of *Prussia*, however, has gloriously kept all his former conquests, and stipulated security for all his allies, even for the *elector of Hanover*. I know in what light this great prince is considered in Europe, and in what manner he has been treated here; among other reasons, perhaps, from some contemptuous expressions he may have used of the *Scot*: expressions which are every day echoed by the whole body of *Englishmen* through the southern part of this island.

The *Preliminary Articles of Peace* were such as have drawn the contempt of mankind on our wretched negotiators. All our most valuable conquests were agreed to be restored, and the *East India company*.



would have been infallibly ruined by a single article of this fallacious and baneful negociation. No hireling of the minister has been hardy enough to dispute this; yet the minister himself has made our sovereign declare, *the satisfaction which he felt at the approaching re-establishment of peace upon conditions so honourable to his crown, and so beneficial to his people.* As to the *entire approbation* of parliament, which is so vainly boasted of, the world knows how that was obtained. The large debt on the *Civil List*, already above half a year in arrear, shews pretty clearly the transactions of the winter. It is, however, remarkable, that the minister's speech dwells on the *entire approbation* given by parliament to the *Preliminary Articles*, which I will venture to say, he must by this time be ashamed of; for he has been brought to confess the total want of that knowledge, accuracy and precision, by which such immense advantages both of trade and territory, were sacrificed to our inveterate enemies. These gross blunders

are, indeed, in some measure set right by the *Definitive Treaty*; yet, the most important articles, relative to *cessions, commerce*, and the FISHERY, remain as they were, with respect to the *French*. The proud and feeble *Spaniard* too does not RENOUNCE, but only DESISTS *from all pretensions, which he may have formed, to the right of Fishing*—where? only *about the island of NEWFOUNDLAND*—till a favourable opportunity arises of *insisting* on it, *there, as well as elsewhere*.

The minister cannot forbear, even in the *King's Speech*, insulting us with a dull repetition of the word *æconomy*. I did not expect so soon to have seen that word again, after it had been so lately exploded, and more than once, by a most numerous audience, *bissed* off the stage of our *English* theatres. It is held in derision by the *voice of the people*, and every tongue loudly proclaims the universal contempt, in which these empty professions are held by *this* nation. Let the public be informed of a single instance of *æconomy*, except indeed

in the household? Is a regiment, which was completed as to its compliment of officers on the *Tuesday*, and broke on the *Thursday*, a proof of *economy*? Is the pay of the *Scottish Master Elliot* to be voted by an *English* parliament, under the head of *economy*? Is this, among a thousand others, one of the convincing proofs of a *firm resolution to form government on a plan of strict economy*? Is it not notorious, that in the reduction of the army, not the least attention has been paid to it. Many unnecessary expences have been incurred, only to encrease the power of the crown, that is to create more lucrative jobs for the creatures of the minister? The *staff* indeed, is broke, but the discerning part of mankind immediately comprehended the mean subterfuge, and resented the indignity put upon so brave an officer, as *marshal Ligonier*. That step was taken to give the whole power of the army to the crown, that is, to the minister. Lord *Ligonier* is now no longer at the head of the army; but lord *Bute* in effect is: I mean

that every preferment given by the crown will be found still to be obtained by *his* enormous influence, and to be bestowed only on the creatures of the *Scottish* faction. The nation is still in the same deplorable state, while *he* governs, and can make the tools of *his* power pursue the same odious measures. Such a retreat, as he intends, can only mean that personal indemnity, which, I hope, guilt will never find from an injured nation. The negociations of the late inglorious *peace*, and the *excise*, will haunt him, wherever he goes, and the terrors of the just resentment, which he must be to meet from a brave and insulted people, and which must finally crush him, will be for ever before his eyes.

In vain will such a minister, or the foud dregs of his power, the tools of corruption and despotism, preach up in *the speech* that *spirit of concord*, and that obedience to the laws, which is essential to good order. They have sent the *spirit of discord* through the land, and I will prophecy, that it will never be extinguished, but by the extinction of their power. Is the *spirit of con-*

*cord* to go hand in hand with the **PEACE** and **EXCISE** through this nation? Is it to be expected between an insolent **EXCISEMAN**, and a *peer, gentleman, freeholder, or farmer*, whose private houses are now made liable to be entered and searched at pleasure? *Gloucestershire, Herefordshire*, and in general all the *cyder* counties, are not surely the *several counties*, which are alluded to in the *speech*. The *spirit of concord* has not gone forth among them; but the spirit of liberty has, and a noble opposition has been given to the wicked instruments of oppression. A nation as sensible as the *English*, will see that a *spirit of concord*, when they are oppressed, means a tame submission to injury, and that *spirit of liberty* ought then to arise, and I am sure ever will, in proportion to the weight of the grievance they feel. *Every legal attempt of a contrary tendency to the spirit of concord* will be deemed a justifiable resistance, warranted by the *spirit of the English constitution*.

A despotic minister will always endeavour to dazzle his prince with high-flown

ideas of the *prerogative* and *honour* of the *crown*, which the minister will make a parade of *firmly maintaining*. I wish as much as any man in the kingdom to see *the honour of the crown* maintained in a manner truly becoming *Royalty*. I lament to see it sunk even to prostitution. What a shame was it to see the security of this country; in point of military force, complimented away, contrary to the opinion of *Royalty* itself, and sacrificed to the prejudices and to the ignorance of a set of people, the most unfit from every consideration to be consulted on a matter relative to the security of the *house of Hanover*? I wish to see *the honour of the crown* religiously asserted with regard to our allies, and the dignity of it scrupulously maintained with regard to foreign princes. Is it possible such an indignity can have happened, such a sacrifice of *the honour of the crown of England*, as that a minister should already have kissed his majesty's hand on being appointed to the most insolent and ungrateful court in the world, without a pre-

vious assurance of that reciprocal nomination which the meanest court in Europe would insist upon, before she proceeded to an act otherwise so derogatory to her honour? But *Electoral Policy* has ever been obsequious to the court of *Vienna*, and forgets the insolence with which *count Colloredo* left England. Upon a principle of *dignity* and *economy*, lord *Stormont*, a *Scottish* peer of the loyal house of *Murray*, kissed his majesty's hand, I think, on Wednesday in the *Easter* week; but this ignominious act has not yet disgraced the nation in the *London Gazette*. The ministry are not ashamed of doing the thing in private; they are only afraid of the publication. Was it a tender regard for the honour of the late king, or of his present majesty, that invited to court lord *George Sackville*, in these first days of Peace, to share in the general satisfaction, which all good courtiers received in the indignity offered to Lord *Ligonier*, and on the advancement of ———. Was this to shew princely gratitude to the eminent services

of the accomplished general of the house of *Brunswic*, who has had so great a share in rescuing *Europe* from the yoke of *France*, and whose nephew we hope soon to see made happy in the possession of the most amiable princess in the world? Or, is it meant to assert *the honour of the crown* only against the united wishes of a loyal and affectionate people, founded in a happy experience of the talents, ability, integrity, and virtue of those, who have had the glory of redeeming their country from bondage and ruin, in order to support, by every art of corruption and intimidation, a weak, disjointed, incapable set of — I will call them any thing but *ministers*—by whom the *Favourite* still meditates to rule this kingdom with a rod of iron.

The *Stuart* line has ever been intoxicated with the slavish doctrines of the *absolute, independent, unlimited* power of the crown. Some of that line were so weakly advised, as to endeavour to reduce them into practice : but the *English* nation was too spirited to suffer the least encroachment



on the ancient liberties of this kingdom. The *king of England* is only the first magistrate of this country ; but is invested by law with the whole executive power. He is, however, responsible to his people for the due execution of the royal functions, in the choice of ministers, &c. equally with the meanest of his subjects in his particular duty. The personal character of our present amiable sovereign makes us easy and happy that so great a power is lodged in such hands ; but the *favourite* has given too just cause for him to escape the general odium. The *prerogative* of the crown is to exert the constitutional powers entrusted to it in a way, not of blind favour and partiality, but of wisdom and judgment. This is the spirit of our constitution. The people too have their *prerogative*, and, I hope, the fine words of DRYDEN will be engraven on our hearts,

*Freedom is the English Subject's Pre-  
rogative.*

To the NORTH BRITON.

S I R,

Please to state the following fact, which is of a nature almost entirely new, and I will soon trouble you with my observations on so remarkable a proceeding.

L. S.

*By the Right Honourable Welbore Ellis,  
His Majesty's Secretary at War.*

HAVING received His Majesty's commands, do hereby discharge ANTHONY NICHOLS, a private man, from the *Coldstream* regiment of foot-guards, commanded by general JAMES lord TYRAWLEY, from any further service in the said regiment.

Given under my hand and seal, at the  
WAR-OFFICE, this 26th day of  
*March* 1763.

W. E L L I S.

To all His Majesty's officers, civil and military, whom it may concern.

By the ARTICLES OF WAR, Sect. 3,  
Art. 2. After a non-commissioned officer,  
or soldier, shall have been duly enlisted,

and sworn, he shall not be dismissed our service, without a discharge in writing; and no discharge granted to him shall be allowed of as sufficient, which is not signed by a Field-Officer of the Regiment into which he was enlisted; or commanding officer, where no Field-Officer of the regiment is in Great Britain.

*Quere.* Is the *Secretary at War* a Field-Officer? or what *Officer* is he?

I am, &c.

Observations on the papers relative to the Rupture with Spain, laid before both Houses of Parliament, on Friday the 29th day of January, 1762, by his Majesty's command, in a letter from John Wilkes, Esq; late Member for Aylesbury, to a friend in the country.

*Quis fera*

*Bellum curet Iberia?*

HOR.

DEAR SIR,

March 9, 1762.

**I** MUCH regret that it is not yet in my power fully to gratify the curiosity you express of seeing *all the papers relative to the rupture with Spain*. The subject is so very interesting, that I am not surprized at your impatience. My concern is, that so much is withheld from the public, and that a person, uninformed as I am, cannot pretend with clearness to unravel the thread of a negociation, designedly kept intricate and embarrassed. I fear you will find some things rather obscure; but I will endeavour to pour all the light I can on the

subject, and to dissipate every cloud of obscurity which is meant to cover it. Had the public been gratified with a sight of the memorials and papers relating to the demand of liberty to the *Spanish* nation to fish on the Banks of *Newfoundland* (*a matter held sacred* \*) and to the other claims,

\* You will again on this occasion let M. Wall clearly understand, That this is a matter held sacred; and that no concession on the part of his Majesty, so destructive to this true and capital interest of Great Britain, will be yielded to Spain, however abetted and supported. Mr. Pitt's letter, p. 3. With regard to the Newfoundland fishery, M. Wall urged, What had principally given offence here as to that article, was my being so frequently ordered to declare, and the Conde de Fuentes having been as often told, that England would never hear of that inadmissible pretension. Lord Bristol's letter to the Earl of Egremont, Dec. 6. 1761. p. 53.

The declaration of the Count *de Fuentes*, that Mr. Pitt's ordinary and last answer was, "That he would not relax in any thing, till the Tower of London was taken sword in hand," p. 45. is undoubtedly a gross misrepresentation. That expression must have been confined to the Spanish claim of fishing on the Banks of *Newfoundland*; for it is apparent from these papers that Mr. Pitt was ready to make greater concessions to preserve the friendship of Spain, than any former minister had ventured to offer; witness the paragraph in Lord Bristol's letter of August 31, p. 8. Lastly, concerning the disputes about the coast of Honduras, I could add nothing to the repeated declarations I had made in the King's name, of the satisfaction with

equally unjust, made by the Count *de Fuentes*, which were moved for in the House of Commons on the 11th of *December* last, we might, with a tolerable degree of accuracy, have known something more of the merits of the present quarrel with *Spain*. Not one of these appears, nor have we any paper or memorial from *Spain* (not even that delivered to Lord *Bristol* in *January* last \*) nor any answer of the Court of *England*, since the accession of his present Catholic Majesty (important as that

*which his Majesty would receive any just overture from Spain (upon condition that France was not to be the channel of that conveyance) for terminating amicably, and to mutual satisfaction, every reasonable complaint on this matter, by proposing some equitable regulation for securing to us the long-enjoyed privilege of cutting logwood (an indulgence confirmed by treaty, and of course authorized in the most sacred manner); nor could I give stronger assurances than the past, of his Majesty's steady purpose to cause all establishments on the logwood coasts, contrary to the territorial jurisdiction of Spain, to be removed.*

\* Yet when the style of General Wall's enclosed paper is compared with that which was given to me last January, I hope it will appear there is less perverseness at present here than what was so strongly exhibited some months ago, p. 11.

Q

period must naturally seem to be) to the last Autumn. In vain have I wished for the famous memorial which the Court of *Spain* returned as inadmissible; that I might have compared it with M. *de Bussy's*; since the late minister publicly declared *that was* the precedent he followed with respect to the memorial of *Spanish* affairs given in by *France*. It is undoubtedly of much consequence to know both the *matter* and *expressions* of that memorial returned by *Spain*, as it might probably relate to one of the three points in negotiation, *prizes*, *logwood*, or the *fishery*. In the present collection (which was laid before both Houses of Parliament on the 29th of *January*, but not printed and delivered to the members till the 12th of *February*) there is not a line previous to the memorial delivered to Mr. Secretary *Pitt*, by M. *de Bussy*, *July* 23, 1761; nor is there any intelligence from *Paris*, where the *Family Compact* of the House of *Bourbon* was negotiated and signed by *Grimaldi*, and where, it is said, the measures to be taken against *Portugal*

were concerted. An EXTRACT of one letter only of Mr. *Pitt's* is inserted, which is dated *July 28*, the answer to which is received *September 11*. Not a syllable after that period from this Court to Lord *Bristol*, till the 28th of *October*, when Lord *Egremont* declares he opens his correspondence; p. 20\*. It is indeed very astonishing, and gives no great idea of the vigilance or attention of administration, that while affairs were so critical between the two nations, no directions for the conduct of Lord *Bristol* were sent to *Madrid* during so long a period †. But can it be imagined

\* How can this be the truth, when Lord *Bristol* writes, *November 16, 1761. The messenger Ardouin, delivered to me on the 10th instant, at the Escorial, the honour of your Lordship's dispatches of the 28th past, with the several inclosures therein referred to; and by the last post I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF THE 20th OF THE SAME MONTH, in which your Lordship informed me, that all mine to the 21st of September, had been regularly laid before his Majesty, p. 36.* I suppose the public could not be trusted with all that letter.

† How is this to be reconciled to the declaration of Lord *Egremont*, Mr. *Pitt's* successor, that the new ministry will avoid every possible imputation of indecision or indolence, which ignorant prejudice might suggest? p. 23.



that so acute, so well-informed a minister as Mr. *Stanley* certainly was, should not transmit from *Paris* any intelligence of that most alarming treaty, which was negotiating all the summer at *Paris*? It appears, by the accounts published by the *French* Court, that the *Family Compact* was signed at *Versailles* the 15th of *August*, and ratified the 8th of *September*. Lord TEMPLE, in a great assembly, did declare that intelligence of the highest moment relative to these matters was transmitted to this Court before the advice in writing, dated the 18th of *September*, which occasioned certain resignations. Nothing of this kind is published in the *papers relative to the rupture with Spain*, though undoubtedly intelligence constitutes a most material part of those *papers*. If we have not the satisfaction of judging for ourselves from the whole of a case, I will do the late minister the justice to say, that it cannot be imputed to him. He pressed with honest zeal the laying before the public every paper relative to the *six years negotia-*

*tion* \* with *Spain*, that the justice and candour of the crown of *England* on the one hand, and the chicanery, insolence, and perfidy of *Spain* on the other, might be apparent to all the world: But this was refused; for had it been granted, all the atrocious calumnies so industriously circulated, of his aversion to peace, and his endeavours to perpetuate and encrease the war, had been laid open to mankind, and the authors of them held in just abhorrence. I own the appeal to so much written evidence, spoke to me the strongest language of conscious integrity, and I was charmed with an example, which I am sure Mr. *Pitt* did not draw from any of his predecessors in this country.—They have ever fought, like Mr. *Pitt*'s successors, to cover and conceal, or at least to perplex; he wishes to lay open and reveal to the unerring public, both the motives and actions of every part

\* I should be particularly curious, for certain reasons, to see in what manner, and to what extent, the *Spanish* Court had been flattered by that of *London*, with an impartial discussion of their disputes, from the year 1754, before Mr. *Pitt* accepted the seals, p. 53.

of his administration.—A retrospect carries no terrors but to the guilty—to an upright minister it must give the truest satisfaction—to the public that conviction, it has in many cases a right to expect.

I was not a little surprised, and I own greatly concerned at the alarm you mention, spread every where in your parts, of the melancholy and ruined state of our country, and the necessity we were under of accepting almost any peace. *The French, Lord Bristol says, have never discontinued assuring the Spaniards of our being exhausted by the present long and expensive war, p. 29 :* and they may add that we have those among us (but, happily for this nation, they are few, and their credit but small) who repine at our successes, and declare they *weep over our victories*. This is the true picture of that most malignant and infernal fiend, envy, so well described by Ovid ;

*Vixque tenet lacrymas, quia nil lacrymabile  
cernit.*

And a little before he mentions what  
rankled at the heart ;

*Sed videt ingratos, intabescitque videndo  
Successus hominis.*

I doubt not these men do very sincerely lament the successes even of their own country ; for I well remember the favourite language they held a few years ago, “ Give  
“ the new minister the reigns—he is equally  
“ impracticable as impetuous—in a very  
“ short time he must annihilate his present  
“ credit with the public, from the failure  
“ of every scheme he adopts.” Now Heaven has given such glorious success to upright intentions, and well-digested \* plans, while the rest of their countrymen are congratulating each other on all our noble conquests and real acquisitions of strength,

\* In Europe, Cherbourg, and Belle-Isle ; in Asia, Pondicherry ; in Africa, Senegal, and Goree ; in America, Beau Sejour, Louisbourg, Fort du Quesne, now Pittsburg, Guadalupe, &c. Niagara, Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Quebec, Montreal, Dominico, and, to crown the whole, we may hope Martinico. Let me add the annihilation of the French marine and commerce. All during Mr. Pitt’s ministry.

these men, as well as our declared enemies, are found in sorrow and tears. How preposterous is such a conduct? Yet did not some of these very men execrate those as traitors to their country, who were not fired with rapture at the victory of *Culloden*? a victory as justly dear to every friend of liberty as any our annals can boast.—

But let us on the other hand exult, and rejoice to see how greatly this country now figures in the unprejudiced judgment of foreigners, even of our enemies. The prime minister of *Spain* tells Lord *Bristol*, *That the Court of London was in the most flourishing and most exalted situation it had ever known, occasioned by the greatest series of prosperities that any single nation had ever met with*, p. 10. Can we wonder after this, that so much abuse, such gross scurrility, on Mr. *Pitt*, appears in *Fuentes's* papers? Is it not the highest panegyric? I am persuaded, had the *direction* of the *British* counsels been suffered to continue in the same hands, the name of *Pitt* had

soon been as much dreaded at *Madrid* as it is at *Paris*, or as it is dear to his grateful countrymen. I speak with the honest warmth and pride of an *Englishman*, who really feels with his sovereign the *great and important services* \* of Mr. Pitt, and glories in seeing his country recovered from the most abject state of despair to such a pitch of grandeur and importance, as to hold the first rank among the powers of *Europe*.

The other report you mention, that the late minister *courted a war with Spain*, will receive as full a confutation from these papers. I shall, from among many, produce only two passages, but too express to admit the least shadow of a doubt. The first is from the conclusion of the EXTRACT of the only letter we have of Mr. Pitt's in this garbled collection. After the insolent memorial of *France* relative to *Spain* was delivered here by M. de Buffy, *little short of a declaration of a war in reversion, and that not at a distance*, Mr. Pitt writes to Lord Bristol, *In case, upon enter-*

\* Vide *London Gazette* of Oct. 19, 1761.

*ing into remonstrance on this affair, you shall perceive a disposition in M. Wall to explain away and disavow the authorization of Spain to this offensive transaction of France, AND TO COME TO CATEGORICAL AND SATISFACTORY DECLARATIONS RELATIVELY TO THE FINAL INTENTIONS OF SPAIN, your Excellency will, with readiness and your usual address, adapt yourself to so desirable a circumstance, and will open to the Court of Madrid as handsome a retreat as may be, in case you perceive from the Spanish minister that they sincerely wish to find one, and to remove, by an EFFECTUAL SATISFACTION, the unfavourable impressions which this memorial of France has justly and unavoidably made on the mind of his Majesty, p. 3, 4. Is this the language of a minister who courts a war? Is it not the reverse? Does he not honestly point out the means of avoiding a war, yet with the dignity and spirit becoming a great power, which did not tremble at the haughty menaces of the Spaniard?*

The other passage contains the testimony of the Earl of Egremont: *M. Wall*

*must himself know that there has been a particular delicacy observed, in concerting our plans for military operations, to avoid carrying hostilities towards objects, which might give the least jealousy or umbrage to the Court of Spain; and therefore his Majesty can only consider such unjust suggestions and groundless suspicions, as destitute of probability as of proof, as a mere pretext, in case that, contrary to all good faith, and the most solemn repeated professions of friendly intentions, the Court of Spain should have meditated or resolved on hostilities against England, p. 31\*.*

I think it appears to demonstration, even from these papers, that before the first overtures of France for the particular peace with England, Spain had resolved, at a proper time, to take an efficient and openly hostile part against us. *M. de Bussy*, in the memorial relative to Spain, so early as July 23, talks of the engagements, which the one and the other Court may have taken prior to their reconciliation, p. 4. Mr. Pitt's

\* *M. Wall owned, how cautious we had been to avoid attacking those possessions belonging to our enemies, which had any connection with the Spanish territory. Lord Bristol's letter, p. 63.*



letter of July 28, declares, *The Duke de Choiseul avows the engagements with Spain, concerning our disputes with that crown, to have been taken before the FIRST OVERTURES of France for the particular peace with England.* The first overtures were dated the 26th of March, 1761\*. Lord Bristol, Aug. 31, gives an account of the conversation he had with General Wall, in which M. Wall declared, that M. Bussy's memorial was verbatim what had been sent by order of the Catholic King to Versailles, p. 6.† In the same letter, p. 11. *The strong avowal of a most intimate cordiality between Spain*

\* Vide *Memoire Historique*, &c. published by the Court of France.

† In the paper of the 28th of August, Spain with her usual perfidy repeated in answer, that she only CONSENTED that France should take this step. p. 15. This is of a piece with her veracity, when she says, *From a fresh proof of his pacific spirit, the King of Spain wrote to the King of France, his cousin, that if the union of interest, in any manner retarded the peace with England, he CONSENTED to separate himself from it, not to put ANY OBSTACLE to so great a happiness.* p. 46. It is notorious in France, that every obstacle possible was put to it by the Spanish minister, in conjunction with the imperial, at Paris, and in reality Spain only wished not to be REPUTED an impediment to the conclusion of a peace between England and France, p. 55. Another proof of her veracity may be seen in p. 44 of this pamphlet.

*and France contained in this last production of the Spanish secretary of state has hurt me. This production was the famous memorial of the 28th of August, which (with Lord Bristol's letter of the 31st, and an enclosure) was the last paper Mr. Pitt ever received from the Court of Spain, as appears from the date of his resignation, October 5. The memorial which M. de Buffy presented to Mr. Pitt, is a step, which his Catholic Majesty will not deny has been taken with his full consent, approbation, and pleasure. Paper delivered to the Earl of Bristol, p. 13. which next holds out mutual assistance, as their union, friendship, and relationship require: then proceeds to a menacing parallel, It being grounded upon this, that if England saw that France attacked the dominions of Spain, particularly in America, she would run immediately to her defence for her own conveniency, as well as because she had, equally with France, guaranteed them: and concludes with a simile of obliging delicacy betwixt crowned heads, with regard to our establishment on the logwood coast. Hard proceedings certainly,*

*for one to confess that he is gone into the house of another, to take away his jewels, and to say, " I will go out again, but first you shall engage to give me what I went to take."* So much for becoming apologies\*! p. 16. There is the greatest harmony between the two Courts (France and Spain) p. 14. Particularly since the King (of Spain) sent your Excellency (the Conde de Fuentes) to that Court, (of London) proving the incontestible grounds of our complaints and just cares, and repeating that without satisfying them, it is impossible to fix the good correspondence of the two monarchies, nor the friendship of the two monarchs, p. 59. The memorial itself presented by M. de Bussy, July 23, which was verbatim sent from Spain, threatens a new war in Europe and America, if the differences of Spain with England are not adjusted, of which, the French King says, he shall be obliged to partake, p. 4. And in p. 39. General Wall says, *What other discussion of the matter of*

\* This paper is styled by Spain, a Memorial, p. 40, and contains those becoming apologies, on the part of the Catholic Court, mentioned in the English declaration of war. Apologies equally becoming and convincing!

*our disputes, than what has been agitated, during so long a negociation ; what other expedients can be found to save the honour and dignity of the two Kings, that have not been proposed and exhausted in a contest of six years ?* And again, p. 40. *A negociation so strongly discussed that it has been reduced during your embassy (Count de Fuentes's) to the last Yes, or to the last No.* In p. 60, *What greater discussion, upon the points of our disputes, can be made than that which has been in so long a negociation ? What expedients can be fallen upon now to save the honour of the two Kings, which in arguments and disputes of six years have not occurred ?* Lord Bristol, Nov. 2, writes, *I have LONG observed the jealousy of Spain at the British conquests \**, and am now convinced, that the consciousness of this country's naval inferiority has occasioned the † SOOTHING DECLA-

\* It is important to know in what terms, and at what time, Spain first manifested this jealousy ; as also in what terms, and at what time, she renewed her stale and inadmissible claim to the fishery, which, Mr. Wall says, all Lord Bristol's instructions had run to declare their claim to be, p. 27.

† In the London Gazette of Saturday, October 10, 1761, which first announced Mr. Pitt's resignation,

RATION, *so repeatedly made, of a desire to maintain harmony and friendship with England*, p. 29.

(the notice of which was purposely omitted the preceding *Tuesday*, for reasons I will not now enter into) is an article dated *Madrid, September 4*, *A report having been lately spread here, upon the arrival of the last letters from France, as if there was reason to apprehend an immediate rupture between our Court and that of Great Britain; we understand, that the Spanish ministers, in a conversation which they had lately with the Earl of Bristol, Ambassador Extraordinary from his Britannic Majesty, expressed their concern thereat, and declared very explicitly to his Excellency, that, ON THE PART OF THEIR COURT, THERE WAS NOT THE LEAST GROUND FOR ANY SUCH APPREHENSIONS, AS THE CATHOLIC KING HAD, AT NO TIME, BEEN MORE INTENT UPON CULTIVATING A GOOD CORRESPONDENCE WITH ENGLAND, THAN IN THE PRESENT CONJUNCTURE.*

General *Wall*, in relation to this, declares, p. 38. *I do not remember any thing, at this time, more particular, than on an infinite number of other occasions; neither do I myself comprehend the motive for heightening this.* And again, p. 59. *I do not remember having made it then in a more particular manner than at many other times, neither do I comprehend the motives for their making such a point of it.* The motives for the heightening and making such a point of it, are well understood at *London*, though not at *Madrid*. Mr. *Pitt* does not seem to have been the dupe of these soothing declarations, which were only the same Lord *Bristol* had just before given from M. *Wall*, in his letter of the 31st of *August*. His Catholic Majesty's disposition and professions had invariably been the same, and were

I believe I may even from these premises take it as proved beyond contradiction, that *Spain* had come to a final resolution, and only waited for some favourable events to throw off the mask of deceit and treachery. The denouement quickly followed, though probably rather sooner than *Spain* herself intended. Lord *Bristol* explains the true reasons. In his letter of *Sept. 21*, which was received here *Oct. 16*, he says, *A messenger arrived at St. Ildephonso last week, with the news of the safe arrival of the Flota in the Bay of Cadiz*, p. 17. In the letter of *Nov. 2*. *Two ships have lately arrived at Cadiz, with very extraordinary rich cargoes from the West Indies*; SO THAT ALL THE WEALTH THAT WAS EXPECTED FROM SPANISH AMERICA IS NOW SAFE IN OLD SPAIN, p. 29. And again, p. 35. *Eleven large ships of the line, now lying at Ferrol, are rigged, manned, and ready to put to sea at a short warning,*

*ever meant to cement and cultivate the friendship so happily subsisting between our two Courts*, p. 11. Is it possible to think the administration was deceived? or did they mean to deceive the public?

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together with two frigates, one of which is bound to the South Seas, with cannon-ball, powder, and many other implements of war. By advices from Barcelona I hear that two of the Catholic King's ships of war sailed from thence the end of last month, with two large ships under their convoy, loaded with 3500 barrels of gunpowder, 1500 bomb-shells, 500 chests of arms, and a considerable quantity of cannon-balls of different dimensions, which cargo, it is imagined, is destined for the Spanish West Indies. Many more war-like stores are ready to be shipped from Catalonia. Five battalions of different regiments of infantry, and two squadrons of dragoons, are at Cadiz, waiting their final orders to embark for America. This corps makes in all about 3600 men, p. 35. Lord Egremont says, And his Majesty having afterwards, (that is, between the 31st of August, and the 28th of October,) received intelligence, scarce admitting a doubt, of troops marching, and of military preparations making in all the ports of Spain, judged that his DIGNITY, as well as his prudence, re-

*quired him to order his Ambassador at the Court of Madrid, by a dispatch dated the 28th of October, to demand, &c. p. 48.*

General *Wall*, thus prepared, at last comes out of his intrenchments: for *Spain* no longer found her account in *dissembling*. She had already taken her part, and the old traffick of *words* and *soothing declarations* was almost at an end. On \* *November 2*, (*eight* † days before Lord *Bristol* received the very first dispatches ‡ from the new ministry in *England*). His Lordship writes word of the *surprizing change in General Wall's discourse, and an unlooked for alteration of sentiments, and complains*

\* This letter cannot be too much attended to, as it stands immediately connected with the *Spanish* paper or memorial of the 28th of *August*, is explanatory of the real purport of it, and evidently lays the foundation of the rupture, which the new ministry have made with *Spain*.

† *The messenger Ardouin delivered to me on the 10th instant, at the Escorial, the honour of your Lordship's dispatches of the 28th past, p. 36.*

‡ The new-ministry never received any answer to the matter of these first dispatches of the 28th of *October*, till the 24th of *December*, a fortnight after the rupture. Lord *Bristol's* letter, *Dec. 11. p. 41.*



*of the haughty language now held by this Court. M. Wall declares the conduct of England unwarrantable, for his Catholic Majesty never could obtain an answer to any memorial or paper—that we were intoxicated with our successes—and that it was evident all we aimed at was, first to ruin the French power in order more easily to crush Spain, to drive all the subjects of the Christian King, not only from their island-colonies in the new world, but also to destroy their several forts and settlements upon the continent of North America, to have an easier task in seizing on all the Spanish dominions in those parts, thereby to satisfy the utmost of our ambition, and to gratify our unbounded thirst of conquest; and afterwards, that he would himself be the man to advise the King of Spain, since his dominions were to be overwhelmed, at least to have them seized with arms in his subjects hands, and not to continue the passive victim he had hitherto appeared to be in the eyes of the world, p. 26. Now what new event, on the part of England, since the resignations, had happened to give occa-*

sion to such a furious, futile, and menacing declamation ? Lord *Bristol* writes indeed, p. 64. *What had occasioned the great fermentation during that period at this Court, the effects of which, I felt from General Wall's animated discourse at the Escorial, was the notice having, about that time, reached the Catholic King, that the change which had happened in the English administration, was relative to measures proposed to be taken against this country : But surely, almost in Lord Egremont's own words, p. 32, used by Lord Bristol himself to General Wall, the notoriety there was that every thing in the Royal Councils, which could tend towards the interruption of a friendly intelligence between our Courts (which his Majesty was so solicitous to maintain) had also been avoided, p. 62, with the consequential resignations, must have produced in sound argument a directly contrary effect ; whereas the notice sent by his Lordship of the Spanish preparations, and his other reasonings, account very fully for the General's animation at that time.*

I think the question then is reduced to this short point, *Does not the war with Spain, even in September, appear to have been unavoidable?* Most evidently so, from all the proofs contained in the foregoing pages, and even from what is given us of Lord *Bristol's* letters, in particular that of *August 31*, with the memorial inclosed, which was received here *September 11*, and was, to be sure, no small part of the ground, on which Lord *Temple's* and Mr. *Pitt's* written advice of *September 18* to recall Lord *Bristol*, was founded. Every practice of the most civilized states, every formality prescribed by the law of nations, every proceeding which the most scrupulous rules of good faith, could require, might have been observed, and the noblest opportunity of expeditiously and gloriously terminating both a *French* and a *Spanish* war been seized, which is now irrecoverably lost. The firmest nerves of *Spain*, and with them the last hopes of *France*, might soon have been withered, and the *British* empire have received greater, and

more important, acquisitions, than any it yet can boast from the unparalleled, and dazzling successes, even of this glorious war.

Whoever considers the situation of *Spain* (unprepared as she was at the time the written advice was given \*) with respect to her ports, her ships of war in those ports, her colonies, her commerce, her own as well as the riches of *France* on board her ships, can never sufficiently lament the loss of an autumnal campaign †. If we add that the fleet of *England* was at

\* All advices concur in proving that the state of *Spain* was at that time much the same as at the breaking out of the war in 1739. *The city of Manila might be well supposed to have been in the same defenceless condition with all the other Spanish settlements, just at the breaking out of the war: That is to say, their fortifications neglected, and in many places decayed; their cannon dismounted, or useless, by the mouldering of their carriages; their magazines, whether of military stores or provision, all empty; their garrisons unpaid, and consequently thin, ill-affected, and dispirited; and the Royal chests in Peru, whence alone all these disorders could receive their redress, drained to the very bottom.* Anson's Voyage, quarto edition of 1748, p. 3.

† Part of the preparations since made both in *Europe* and *America*, may be seen from Lord *Brisol's* Testimony, p. 23 of this pamphlet.

no time so formidable, her seamen never so full of spirit, and flush'd with repeated victories, in *Europe* only upwards of 140 ships of war, in the other parts of the world above 100 more, we must sink in amazement at our supineness and neglect of so critical a period, after so long tameness under injuries. I will add *long tameness under injuries*; for I think the conduct of *Spain*, even during the six years negotiation, was so grossly partial to our professed enemies, as would have justified any overt acts on the side of *England*, from every principle of justice; but motives of moderation and policy restrained us. The affair of the *Antigallican* was alone of such magnitude as to have called for reprisals against a Court, which avowed such gross partiality and injustice, and committed such repeated acts of the highest indignity. Not the least satisfaction was ever offered, though often demanded, On the contrary, it was followed by many flagrant acts of notorious violence. It is a known fact, that both the law of nations, and the

establiſh'd customs of all maritime ſtates, have been violated by *Spain* in every one of her ports, from a declared partiality to the *French*. They were treated almoſt as natural-born *Spaniards*, though the *Family Compact* did not at that time ſubſiſt, and the *Engliſh* as enemies, though called friends, to whom the King of *Spain* was ever declaring much cordiality and regard.

Ruinous indeed it may prove for this country, that the adminiſtration, which for ſo many years has continued UNANIMOUS in carrying on the war in *Germany*, UNANIMOUS likewise in rejecting the terms of peace offered by *France*, ſhould have differed in opinion (if indeed they did ſo) with regard to the glaring duplicity, and hoſtile intentions, of the Court of *Spain* ! It required, alas ! no great ſcope of judgment, nor any deep ſagacity, to diſcover the *real views*, p. 24. of *Spain*, and that the war with that power was inevitable. A truth which moſt plainly appears from the very papers publiſhed to conceal it.

The only question most evidently was, whether we should enter into it with every advantage on our side, or from weakness, indecision, or a delusive hope at best, give to our determined enemy that time to prepare, which it was notorious she wanted, lose the season for action, and sacrifice to the imbecility of a few *more last words* three most important months, at the end of which we find ourselves reduced to the necessity of breaking with *Spain*, exactly as we ought to have done so long before. Whoever can now pride himself in the *procrastinating advice* he gave to his sovereign, may he enjoy in full lustre *that eminent glory of his life!* If such are the *glories*, what must the *disgraces* be! I mean not to draw any uncandid picture of the present administration: I am sorry I must say that we have had too much experience of one part of them, and too little of the other, to be very sanguine. Two Secretaries of State, in these dangerous times, become ministers by inspiration! We have as little experience of them, as they have

of business. In no department of the state, nor in parliament, has either held any rank or estimation. But these defects will be amply supplied by the industry and experience of *a laborious gentleman*, who has *long paced in the trammels of the state*, with *no ambition or avarice to gratify*. A declaration the public has heard repeatedly from *himself*. He neither

*Ambitione mala, aut argenti pallet amore.*

HOR.

But may the dignity of the crown, the honour of his majesty, the glory of the nation, and the important acquisitions made during the late ministry, be safe in their hands! Their hands have been strengthened in every manner they could ask or wish; and no opposition has been made to them; unless it is call'd opposition, to endeavour to preserve the confidence of our allies once boundless, and to keep up the high spirit of the nation under the enormous, but necessary, burthens of the war.



In no truly *British* quarrel, but in the cause of our allies, the *Spanish* marine was destroyed by Sir *George Byng*, in 1718, without any previous declaration of war. We were not, in consequence of that step, treated in *Europe* as an uncivilized nation, spurning at all laws, or as a nest of pirates ; but the *policy* and *spirit* of the measure was universally admired. As to the *justice* of such a proceeding, I determine nothing : I leave it to those *state casuists* who seized the *French* ships before a declaration of war\*. The interest of *Great Britain* was not then immediately concerned, as in the present case, but our allies wished, and obtained, our vigorous and effectual support. By that decisive exertion of our strength, the contest between the two nations was in effect finished almost as soon as begun. The impartial public will judge for themselves, how great the probability is, that the like success had followed measures equally spirited, *preceded by a declaration of war, which*

\* Vid. *Memoire Historique*, No. 17. Art. 12. .

*in this case had been founded on the clearest principles of justice and equity. I am at least certain no man of candour could have censured England as accelerating precipitately a war\**, long resolved by Spain, I must say, too long delayed by England. I rather fear *the example of the spirit of the late measures* † will be thought to be already forgot; and as those measures were decried as too bold and daring, more feeble, more pusillanimous, less encouraging to our real friends, less hostile to our enemies, will be found to be adopted. In the present case, Lord *Bristol* is ordered, so early as *July 28*, to come to categorical and satisfactory declarations relatively to the final intentions of Spain. Mr. Pitt's letter, p. 3. to which Lord *Bristol*, on the part of Spain, never returns either a CATEGORICAL OR SATISFACTORY answer. The ingenious General *Wall*, through the whole negociation, appears reserved and artful

\* Vid. *the Declaration of War against Spain*, Jan. 2, 1762.

† Vid. *Lord Egremont's letter*, p. 23.

at least, not to say full of *duplicity*. *At last General Wall replied, He had no orders to acquaint me with any measures but what he had formerly communicated to me ; and signified his not being at liberty to say any more,* Nov. 2. p. 27. *All that I could, with difficulty, extort from General Wall was, that his Catholic Majesty had judged it expedient to renew his FAMILY COMPACTS (those were the express words) with the Most Christian King—Here the Spanish minister stopt short, and, as if he had gone beyond what he intended, he said, that the Count de Fuentes, and M. Buffy had declared to his Majesty's ministers all that was MEANT to be communicated to them,* Nov. 2. p. 29. Can any thing be imagined more contemptuous, or more insolent ? But what follows is excellent *Spanish* humour ; and the inimitable *Hogarth* could, from these few lines, give us a most diverting frontispiece to the *papers*, if administration did not seem resolved no more to employ men of superior parts and genius. Lord *Bristol* says, *I began to flatter myself I might obtain*

*the categorical answer, I was ordered to demand, without the Spanish minister's suspecting my ultimate orders. When I was going out of his room, he took me by the hand, and said, with a SMILE, he HOPED ; but there he stopped. I asked him what he HOPED, that I might also HOPE, and that all might concur in the same HOPES : But his Excellency only then bowed, and took his leave of me, p. 63. General Wall is too much of a Spaniard ever to laugh ; but his smiles are very significant. Lord Bristol declares, M. Wall ever acted in too ingenuous a manner for me to suspect the least duplicity in his conduct, p. 19. Now was he ever ingenuous and frank enough to communicate to Lord Bristol, the least article of the family compact, or did he ever hint that such a thing was in agitation ? From the Catholic King's very particular partiality towards Lord Bristol, p. 66. I suppose M. Wall was ordered to spare his Lordship the concern so alarming a treaty must have occasioned, and only, from time to time, to use the soothing sounds of friendship, bo-*

*nour, cordiality, affection, &c. &c. to smile, to bow, to take him by the hand, and to —hope. What? I know no more than the present ministry.*

Lord *Bristol* seems totally uninformed of so important an affair as the *family compact*, till long after that treaty was signed and ratified, and only a few days \* before he is told of it from *England*. *October 28*, Lord *Egremont* writes to Lord *Bristol*: *His Majesty cannot imagine that the Court of Spain should think it unreasonable to desire a communication of the treaty* ACKNOWLEDGED *to have been lately concluded between the Courts of Madrid and Versailles, p. 21.* When was this *acknowledgment* made? Surely *this* relates to the *rupture* with *Spain*? Yet not a line of this intelligence is among the *papers*.

By this time, I think it must appear how much Lord *Bristol*, though possessed of real talents, was deceived by the Court of *Spain*; a Court as insidious as that of *France*. Let me next remark, how dex-

\* Vide his letter of *Nov. 2.*

trous the new ministry here were in endeavouring to deceive themselves. In the answer delivered to the Count *de Fuentes*, by the Earl of *Egremont*, Dec. 31, it is said, *The Ambassador at the Court of Madrid, by a dispatch dated the 28th of October, was ordered to demand, in terms the most measured, however, and the most amicable, a communication of the treaty recently concluded between the Courts of Madrid and Versailles, or, at least, of the articles which might relate to the interest of Great Britain—and—*TO CONTENT HIMSELF WITH ASSURANCES, *in case the Catholic King offered to give any, that the said engagements did not contain any thing that was contrary to the friendship which subsisted between the two crowns, or that was prejudicial to the interests of Great Britain, supposing that any difficulty was made of shewing the treaty, p. 48.* The new ministry are now got off from the true ground, which was the memorial of *Spanish* affairs *verbatim* sent from Madrid, and the letter of Lord *Bristol's* of *August* 31, with the enclosures; and

have confined their view to the single point of the late treaty, or the *family compact*. Every thing relative to the *final intentions* of *Spain*, concerning which Lord *Bristol* is ordered, in Mr. *Pitt's* letter, so early as *July 28*, to come to categorical and satisfactory declarations, is omitted in this demand, and Lord *Bristol* is ordered to confine himself to the new treaty. This I agree with Lord *Egremont* is certainly no equivocal proof of dependance on the good faith of the Catholic King, in shewing him an unbounded confidence in so important an affair, p. 49: How merited, we have seen from what passed in the latter months of the negociation; and in all probability should see more glaringly, if the whole negociation, since the accession of his present Catholic Majesty, were communicated to us. From that unbounded confidence the new ministry entirely lost sight of the most offensive and hostile matter in the memorial of *July 25*, and the papers of *August 31*, attacking the dignity of the crown of *England* in a manner surely far more unbecoming and insolent than

that spirit of haughtiness and discord, which, says M. Wall, dictated that inconsiderate step, and which, for the misfortune of mankind, still reigns so much in the British government, which made in the same instant the declaration of war, and attacked the King of Spain's dignity, p. 67. It is plain they were accommodating themselves at any rate tamely to become the dupes of Spain; for all they desired, by the dispatch of the 28th of October, was an assurance of the innocence of the treaty in question, p. 23; and they passed by every thing else, though of the most hostile tendency. Conscious of this, Lord Egremont, at the end of his answer to the Conde de Fuentes, December 31, pleads guilty for himself and his brother ministers, to the charge that may be exhibited against them of an intentionally facile and willing credulity, when he says, *But fortunately the terms in which the declaration* \* *(Fuentes's) is con-*

\* That the said treaty is only a convention between the family of Bourbon, wherein there is nothing that has the least relation to the present war. Fuentes's note delivered to Lord Egremont, Dec. 25. p. 46



ceived, spare us the regret of not having received it sooner; for it appears, at first sight, that the answer is not at all conformable to the demand. We wanted to be informed, If the Court of Spain intended to join the French, our enemies, to make war on Great Britain; or to depart from their neutrality? Whereas the answer concerns one treaty only, (all that was ask'd by the dispatch of the 28th of October,) which is said to be of the 15th of August; carefully avoiding to say the least word that could explain, in any manner, the intentions of Spain towards Great Britain, or the further engagements they may have contracted in the present crisis. In the dispatch indeed of Lord Egremont to Lord Bristol, of November 19, in answer to Lord Bristol's letter of November 2, p. 32, the new ministry amend their own question, and at last demand a PRECISE and CATEGORICAL ANSWER from the Court of Madrid, relative to their intention with regard to Great Britain in this critical conjuncture, which brought on the rupture on the 10th of December, and is precisely what was directed by Mr. Pitt so early as July 28.

I cannot pass by *that other* part of Lord Egremont's answer delivered to the Count de Fuentes December 31, in which it is said, *the Ambassador (of England) having addressed himself to the minister of Spain for that purpose, could only draw from him a refusal, to give a satisfactory answer to his Majesty's JUST REQUISITIONS\**, *which he had accompanied with terms that breathed nothing but haughtiness, animosity, and menace, and which seemed so strongly to verify the suspicions of the unamicable disposition of the Court of Spain*, p. 49, without observing that this cannot possibly be the real state of the fact, (though his Lordship but a few lines before says, *he will confine himself to facts, with the most scrupulous exactness*) for Lord Egremont receives no answer from Lord

\* The following paragraph of Lord Bristol's letter of Nov. 2, p. 25, demonstrates that these *just requisitions* were not made in consequence of any orders from the Court of England: *Such strong reports of an approaching rupture between Great Britain and Spain, grounded upon several authentic assurances I had received, that some agreement had been settled and signed between their Catholic and Most Christian Majesties, DETERMINED ME to enquire minutely into this affair.*

*Bristol* † to the orders to make the JUST REQUISITIONS contained in his two dispatches (of the 28th of October, and 19th

† It is remarked in the Gazette of Madrid, published by authority, in these words : *And what is more singular, is, that they attribute the last endeavour, which they ordered Lord Bristol to make, and which caused the rupture, to the language of haughtiness, animosity, and menace, with which (according to them) our Court answered to the civil and amicable demand that minister made in consequence (say they) of an order of the 28th of October. Unfortunately for them, they have not considered that in an interval from the 28th of October to the 1st or 2d of December, the day upon which Lord Bristol's last letter arrived, it is impossible an express can come from London to Madrid, return to London with an answer to his dispatch, and go back to Madrid with the reply.* Gazette de Amsterdam Du Mardi 23 Février 1762. De Madrid le 2 Février 1762. Par le même courier, qui a apporté au Roi la nouvelle de la résolution prise à la cour Britannique de nous déclarer la guerre, le Comte de Fuentes a envoyé à S. M. un Mémoire remis à cet Ambassadeur avant son départ de Londres par le Comte d'Egremont, Secrétaire d'Etat de S. M. Britannique, en réponse à la déclaration que le Comte de Fuentes lui avoit donné par écrit quelques jours auparavant. Ces deux pieces ont été insérées, par ordre de notre cour, dans la Gazette de Madrid, avec les observations suivantes sur le memoire delivre par le Comte d'Egremont.—*Et ce qu'il y a de plus singulier, c'est qu'ils attribuent la dernière tentative qu'on a fait faire au Lord Bristol, et qui a causé la rupture, au ton de hauteur, d'animosité, et de menace, avec lequel (selon eux) notre cour a répondu aux demandes honnêtes et amiables que ce ministre fit en vertu (disent-ils) d'un ordre du 28 Octobre. Malheureusement pour eux, ils n'ont*

of November,) till the 24th of December, a fortnight after the rupture, which happened on the 10th. p. 41, & 43, except what I will now state, which is far from containing the *repeated and the most stinging refusals to give the least satisfaction*, p. 50. Extract from Lord Bristol's letter to the Earl of Egremont, November 23, p. 37: *It will not be possible for me to re-dispatch a messenger to England for several days, notwithstanding my having had another long conference with M. Wall, at which I entered minutely into every argument suggested to me by your Lordship. Although I dare not flatter myself with having gained any ground upon the Spanish minister, yet I never before observed his Excellency listen with greater attention to my discourse, than at our late meeting. When he answered me, it was without warmth; when he applied to me, it was friendly; and, after long reasonings, on point fait attention que, dans un intervalle comme celui du 28 du dit mois au 1er ou 2. de Decembre, jour auquel arriva le dernier courier du Lord Bristol, il est impossible qu'on exprès vienne de Londres à Madrid, retourne à Londres avec la reponse à sa dépêche, et revienne à Madrid avec la réplique.*

*both sides, we parted with reciprocal protestations to each other of our earnest desire to continue in peace. General Wall also promised me, to acquaint his Catholic Majesty, circumstantially, with what had passed between us. I entreat your Lordship not to think me inconsequential in what I relate : It is my duty to mention the result of each interview with the Spanish secretary of state. All I sent an account of in my letters of the 2d instant, was literally what had happened at that time ; and the change I have just hinted, when I last saw M. Wall, is equally certain.*

I will observe but upon one passage more, and that is from Lord Egremont's dispatch of *November 19*, because when he is drove to the necessity of defending the proceedings of the present ministry, he gives (what possibly was not his object) the fullest justification of Mr. Pitt. *As to the assertion of that minister (M. Wall)*

“ That his Catholic Majesty never could  
 “ obtain an answer from the *British* mini-  
 “ stry, to any memorial or paper that was  
 “ sent from *Spain*, either by the channel

of the Count de Fuentes, or through  
 “ your hands,” it would be a useless con-  
 descension to appeal so repeatedly to those  
*ample materials in your Excellency’s possession,*  
*for the confutation of a proposition so notori-*  
*ously groundless, that it scarce deserves a se-*  
*rious answer. The language M. Wall held,*  
*relative to the late negociation with France,*  
*as well as with regard to our ambition and*  
*unbounded thirst of conquest, as it consists of*  
*mere abusive assertion, without the least shew*  
*of argument, deserves nothing but plain con-*  
*tradiction, p. 31.*

Before I quit the *papers*, it may be ne-  
 cessary to add, that I see nothing so alarm-  
 ing in the war with *Spain*, had it been  
 entered into in time, and were well con-  
 ducted. I have read the histories of both  
 nations, and am happy to agree with our  
 ministers that *experience has shewn that*  
*when in contradiction to the obvious princi-*  
*ples of our common interests, that harmony*  
*has been unhappily interrupted, Spain has*  
*always been the greatest sufferer, p. 21.*  
 Need I do more in support of this opinion

than mention the late war against the combined forces of *France* and *Spain*, united before the *French* marine was annihilated, as it now is; and at a period, when the navy of *England* had not reached its present greatness, and irresistible superiority?

The evidence to be drawn from these imperfect and mutilated papers, is now fully and fairly stated. I call them *imperfect and mutilated*, because they have their commencement, only from the very point, when the long negotiation between *England* and *Spain* being become hopeless, the insolent attempt was made by the two branches of the House of *Bourbon*, then united, to force on his Majesty and the *English* nation, the concession of those inadmissible terms, which *Spain* alone despaired of being able to compel us to *grant*. An attempt of insidious perfidy, which at once proved the particular peace betwixt *England* and *France* to be hopeless and impracticable; for what cessions to *France* could an *English* administration be justified in making, while she declared herself

eventually engaged to take part with *Spain* in a new war for *Spanish* objects, totally inadmissible ; from which protest it doth not appear that either Court ever departed ? The specious and false appearances of candour, which the publication of *papers* in such a state is meant to convey, are as easily seen thro' and detected, as they are unfair and ungenerous. A great deal of very important intelligence, relative to the point in question, is plainly withheld. The suspicions arising from the suppression of evidence are, no doubt, in the opinion of government, more tolerable than the conviction founded upon full proof. Even the particulars of the *negotiation with France* are still secreted from the public, as far as it is in the power of *our government* ; lest, among other good reasons, as it stands naturally connected with the *Spanish*, they might, if considered together, throw too striking a light on the whole. The infinite importance of what is suppressed, I do not pretend to determine ; but the *papers* are evidently



thus partially laid before the public by administration, to justify, if possible, their *delay*: with what success the public will determine. As to the wisdom of the *written advice*, it stands already proved by the event: but before we can enter fully into that dispute (if there can be still a doubt) *all* the materials, *all* the evidence, both from *papers* and *facts*, on which *that advice* was founded, ought, in common justice, to be laid before the public. From what we already know with certainty, *even from these papers*, as to *what Spain had already done*, not from *what that Court might further intend to do* \*, I cannot but own my surprize, that there should be a *difference of opinion with regard to measures to be taken against Spain, of the highest importance to the honour of the crown, and to the most essential national interests* \*. When I am told that only one noble Lord, and the late Secretary of State, of the most confidential servants of the crown, con-

\* *Vide* A letter from a Right Hon person to — in the city.

occurred in an opinion so evident, so clearly  
 deduced from such a variety of proofs, I  
 cannot but imagine that there must have  
 been some powerful combination, some  
 underhand intrigues, among ministers of  
 more denominations than one, to force the  
 resignation of the Right Hon. Gentleman.  
 He must long have been looked upon with  
 an unfriendly and jealous eye by ministers,  
 to whom it is his honour that he was so  
 very unlike ; and who, though real una-  
 nimity attended it in the nation, could ill  
 brook his possessing in so high a degree,  
 (what they never had the least share of) the  
 confidence of a discerning and enlightened  
 people. A point of the utmost conse-  
 quence to every ministry, in this kingdom.  
 The glories of this gentleman's administra-  
 tion, (that is, while he *was allowed to*  
*guide \* the measures* of this nation) and the

\* If one minister on *resigning the seals* may not, in  
 the true spirit of the constitution, say that he resigns,  
*in order not to remain responsible for measures, which he*  
*was no longer allowed to guide* in his own department,  
 to the execution of which he must set his hand ; what  
 an idea of parliament and of the constitution must an-  
 other have entertained, who could, just before taking

applauses of his grateful country; have given him at least a due portion of *envy*, which is a certain attendant on splendid merit.

Sure Fate of all, beneath whose rising ray,  
Each star of meaner merit fades away !  
Oppress'd we feel the beam directly beat ;  
Those Suns of Glory please not till they set.

POPE.

That only two resignations have accompanied that of the late Secretary, is no surprise to me.

*Je suis Anglois, je dois faire le bien  
De mon pays, mais plus encore le mien,*

the seals, write the following circular letter, not yet *be-verified*, or *be-noted* ?

“ S I R,

“ The King has declared his intention to make  
“ me Secretary of State, and I (very unworthy as I  
“ fear I am of such an undertaking) *must take the*  
“ *conduct of the House of Commons*. I cannot there-  
“ fore well accept the office till after the first day's  
“ debate, which may be a warm one. A great at-  
“ tendance that day of my friends will be of the  
“ greatest consequence to my future situation, and I  
“ should be extremely happy, if you would, for that  
“ reason, shew yourself amongst them, to the great  
“ honour of, &c.

says *Voltaire*, who lived a good while in this country, and seems to know it pretty well.

From these few and scanty materials, so sparingly dealt out to the public, I have endeavoured to give you all the satisfaction in my power. I could possibly have amused you more, but I have all along preferred the desire of *informing* to that of *entertaining* you. Perhaps you had been better pleased, if I had deviated more, and had not confined myself so strictly to the evidence of the *papers*, and to *facts* which will not be denied.

To conclude, Let me add to hopes not very sanguine, very sincere and very fervent wishes : *May the most perfect harmony, mutual confidence, and unanimity, which, Lord Egremont, October 28, says, p. 23, now reign in his Majesty's councils, for the sake of the public, long continue ! May the expedition now failed to the West-Indies prove, by success, to have been timely in preparation, adequate in force, to the object, whatever it may be ! May our*

army in *Germany* \*, (since it is still to continue there, though Mr. *Pitt* is retired,) and the Kings of *Prussia* and *Portugal* find that *example* has indeed been taken of the *spirit of the late measures* \*, p. 23. and that the measures of government will suffer no relaxation, p. 22. from feeble, procrastinating, and undecided counsels, founded in weakness and duplicity. And, to grace the whole, may the best-disposed prince, that has at any time swayed the sceptre of *Alfred*, never live to want a minister as able, and successful as Mr. *Pitt*.

I am, &c.

\* It is confidently asserted in honour of the Secretary of State of the Northern department, that *he likewise* did immediately on Mr. *Pitt*'s resignation give the strongest assurances to the German allies, that the resignation of that minister would not occasion the least change in measures, except only that they would be carried on with redoubled vigour.

F I N I S.





